

Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon



Elementary School

Religion

Curriculum Guide

Department of Catholic Schools
(July, 1998)



ARCHDIOCESAN PHILOSOPHY FOR RELIGION

As Catholic Educators Teaching Religion in the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon:

- ❖ We believe that Catholic education is an expression of and participation in the mission entrusted by Jesus to His Church.
- ❖ We believe that the Catholic school embodies the three-fold purpose of the Church's educational mission:
 - ◆ *proclaiming the message revealed by God.*
 - ◆ *building Christian community.*
 - ◆ *reaching out to the world in service.*
- ❖ We believe that Catholic education is fundamental to seeing the dignity of human life with the vision of Jesus Christ and of valuing of the whole person created uniquely in the Image and Likeness of God.
- ❖ We believe that parents are the primary religious educators of their children and that Catholic education supports and assists them in faith formation.
- ❖ We believe that a special function of the Catholic school is to be a community based on Christian values and to promote these values in families, places of work, neighborhoods, the nation and the world.
- ❖ We believe that Catholic Education fosters and nourishes each student's growth in holiness and relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ❖ We believe that Catholic education is directed to the formation of a conscience which empowers students to make morally good decisions in their everyday life.
- ❖ We believe that faith is the underlying reality within which students' experiences of living achieve their deepest meaning.
- ❖ We believe that the Catholic school educates to a social awareness, which calls forth an active Christian response based on love and hope while sharing at the same time a realistic view of the human condition affected by evil and sin.
- ❖ We believe that faith formation is a life-long process of development and growth.



RELIGION CURRICULAR FRAMEWORK

The Archdiocesan Religion Guidelines have a format slightly different from that of the guidelines that have been developed in other curricular areas. Whereas the guidelines for each of the academic subjects have a detailed scope and sequence, the religion guidelines are written as a curricular framework of core content. The curricular framework states which concepts and other materials are to be covered at each grade level. Whichever Archdiocesan approved religion series is chosen by your school it will fit into the framework. The scope and sequence are already developed by publishers of each of the religion series approved for adoption by the Archdiocese.

The religion curricular framework is built on the structure of the *New Catechism* and integrates into each grade level age appropriate materials from each of the four parts of the *Catechism*: **Creed, the Sacred Liturgy, the Christian way of life, and Christian prayer**. The religion curricular framework follows its own arrangement for relating materials from the four parts of the *Catechism* as may be readily seen under the following major headings:

- I. **Learning our Faith (*Core Content*)**
- II. **Living our Faith**
- III. **Activities/Assessments which promote learning about and living the Faith**
- IV. **Prayers to be taught (*as specified in the scope and sequence of the Archdiocesan approved religion series adopted*)**

What a curricular framework looks like:

1. A statement of philosophy
2. A mission statement (*based on the philosophy statement*)
3. A goal statement (*or goal statements*)
4. A statement of objectives (*flowing from the goal/s statement*)
5. A statement of ***Emphasis*** at the beginning of each grade level
6. An outline of content to be covered at each grade level.

At the end of curricular framework is the letter listing the Archdiocesan approved Religion Series



MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Portland, participating in the educational mission of the Catholic Church, endeavor to lead students to a full and ever deepening realization of God's love for them, to personal sanctification, and to social reform in light of Christian values (*The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School*, #33–#34). The Catholic school is a living community of faith “animated by a spirit of liberty and charity” which enables young people to grow in their faith while at the same time developing their own personalities, and of “orienting the whole human culture to the message of salvation” (*General Directory for Catechesis*, #259). This religious view of life is integrated into every aspect of the school's curriculum. The integration of religious truth and values with the whole of life distinguishes the Catholic school from all other schools for only in such a school can students experience learning and living fully integrated in the light of faith (*To Teach as Jesus Did*, #103–#105). The Catholic school, characterized by a holistic catechetical approach which is grounded in Sacred Scripture as well as the Tradition and Doctrine of the Catholic Church, leads to deeper participation in worship and the sacramental life of the Church. The Catholic school is a most important locus of human and Christian formation.



GOAL STATEMENT

Catholic school students internalize and manifest their belief in God through their:

- ❖ Prayer and participation in Liturgical and Sacramental celebrations
- ❖ Knowledge of the Doctrines and Traditions of the Catholic Church
- ❖ Knowledge of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures
- ❖ Respect for all persons because they are children of God
- ❖ Responsible stewardship for God's creation
- ❖ Service as integral to the life of a Christian



OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Students will demonstrate their understanding of the content of the Religion Curriculum (*i.e., Doctrine, Tradition, etc.*) at their particular grade level.
- ❖ Students will demonstrate their familiarity with the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures.
- ❖ Students will participate in prayer opportunities and in liturgical and sacramental celebrations in a manner which is developmentally appropriate. Prayer shall invite students continually into the mystery of God's love.
- ❖ Students will show respect for all persons in their interactions, service to others and building of Christian community.
- ❖ Students will relate to all of creation as responsible stewards.
- ❖ Students will learn to be agents of change and peacemakers by engaging in age appropriate service-learning projects.
- ❖ Students will integrate Faith into all aspects of their lives.

Curricular Framework for Religion

Kindergarten

Emphasis: *God, Creator and Father, loves me.*

I. Learning our Faith: (Core Content)

A. Creation

1. God is Creator of everything.
2. All God's creation is good.
3. God gives life to all living things.
4. Each person is created special by God.
5. God made many different kinds of people.
6. God made all people in His own Image and Likeness.
7. God made all people to be happy forever with Him in heaven.
8. Each person is called to be a responsible steward of God's creation.

B. Relationships

1. God is Father of us all.
2. God loves me and is my special friend.
3. God loves every person.
4. God made people to love one another.
5. God gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our Brother and Savior, our Teacher and Friend.
6. Jesus teaches us about God, our Father.
7. Jesus teaches us to love God, ourselves, and every other person.
8. God invites us to share with others.
9. God forgives.
10. God gives us family and friends to love and support us.

C. God made me special

1. God made me wonderful.
2. God made me unique.
3. God gave me senses to hear, touch, smell, taste and see.
4. God gave me feelings.
5. God made me to grow and to change.
6. God gave me many wonderful gifts.
7. God gave me power to think and to choose how I will act.

D. God Our Father gave us Jesus

1. Jesus is the Son of God.
2. Jesus is our brother.
3. Mary is the mother of Jesus.
4. The story of Jesus is in the Bible.
5. The Church is the family of Jesus.
6. Baptism makes me a member of the family of Jesus.

E. *The Bible*

1. The Bible is God's own book.
2. The Bible tells us the story of creation.
3. The Bible tells us about Jesus.
4. The Bible teaches us about how we should live.

II. Living our Faith

A. *Prayer and worship*

1. We respond in love and gratitude to God through prayer and worship.
2. We learn how to pray with our friends.
3. At Mass we pray with the community for all God's people.
4. At Mass we ask God to help us listen to His word.
5. The Church's liturgical seasons (e.g. Lent, Advent, Easter, and Christmas) help us live our faith.
6. The Church honors Mary and the saints who followed God's way and teach us how to be holy by imitating their lives.
7. In prayer we praise and thank God for all His creation, for our families and our friends.

B. *Sharing and serving*

1. We take care of ourselves and reach out to others who need our help.
2. We take care of our things and everything that God has created.
3. We visit the sick and elderly and send them greeting cards.
4. We do nice things for members of our family.
5. We teach others about our culture through dress, food, art, music or song.

C. *Being good members of God's family (the Church) and our community*

1. We respect each person and the property of others.
2. We try always to be friends with others.
3. We learn the names of the other children at school, and respect those children who are different from ourselves.
4. We help set up rules in our classroom which will be good for everyone.
5. We work with other children peacefully and well.
6. We act as peacemakers when there are disagreements between children in my class or in my family.

III. Activities/Assessments which promote learning about and living the Faith

- A. Names and acts out things God has made
- B. Shares favorite things which God has made
- C. Listens/responds to Scripture readings
- D. Acts out Scripture stories
- E. Retells Scripture stories in own words, in drawings, or in role-playing
- F. Responds creatively to lessons taught
- G. Demonstrates understanding of religious vocabulary
- H. Identifies and shares experiences of using the five senses
- I. Shares stories about feelings
- J. Participates in frequent prayer experiences
- K. Experiences the faith community of the classroom/ school/ parish/ community

- L. Participates in service opportunities appropriate to age
- M. Knows and participates in liturgical season activities and celebrations
- N. Responds orally to a variety of questions
- O. Knows and recites prayers appropriate to grade level

IV. Prayers to be taught (*as specified in the scope and sequence of the religion series adopted*)

Curricular Framework for Religion

Grade One

Emphasis: *Jesus is the Son of God who tells me about the Father.*

I. Learning our Faith: (Core Content)

A. Creation

1. God created the world and everything in it.
2. The world and all God made is good.
3. God created the human person in His own image and likeness.
4. God created all persons out of love.
5. We are all children of God.
6. God created us to know, love and serve Him and to be happy with Him forever in heaven.

B. The Trinity

1. There are three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. God is all loving, all holy and all knowing.
3. God is everywhere and can do all things.
4. God always was and always will be.
5. The Holy Spirit guides the Church.
6. The Holy Spirit helps us to love one another and to live together in peace.

C. The Life of Jesus

1. Jesus is the Son of God.
2. Jesus became man and was born of the Virgin Mary.
3. Jesus is both human and divine.
4. Jesus is God's greatest gift to us.
5. Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises.
6. Jesus lived in a family. St. Joseph was his foster father.
7. Jesus teaches us about His Heavenly Father and shows us His love.
8. Jesus listened and talked with His Father in prayer.
9. Jesus healed, forgave sins, and raised people from the dead.
10. Jesus loves us and gave us the Law of Love.
11. Jesus suffered and died for us and rose from the dead.
12. The story of Jesus is in the Bible.
13. Jesus is our model and teacher who shows us how to live.
14. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit.

D. The Church

1. The Church was born on Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus sent His Spirit to be our helper and our guide.
3. The Church celebrates the Sacraments.
4. The Church is for everyone.
5. We become members of the Church when we are baptized.
6. The Church helps us to be holy.

7. Before He returned to heaven, Jesus appointed Peter to take His place on earth as visible head of the Church.
8. The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church today.

E. *The Sacraments*

1. We receive God's life (Grace) through the Sacraments.
2. The Sacraments manifest God's Presence.
3. The Church celebrates the Sacraments.
4. Baptism makes us children of God and members of His family, the Church.
5. At Baptism we celebrate our new life in Jesus.
6. Jesus comes to us in a special way in the Holy Eucharist. The Church continues the forgiveness of Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

F. *The Bible*

1. The Bible tells the story of God's Creation.
2. Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God's command and they lost His friendship.
3. God promised to send a Savior to save us from sin and restore God's friendship.
4. The Bible tells about God's love for His people and His saving action.

II. Living our Faith

A. *Prayer and worship*

1. Jesus teaches us how to listen to and talk with God, our Father.
2. Prayer is listening and talking with God.
3. We give thanks to God for His gifts of creation, for human life, for our families, for the Church and the Sacraments, and especially for giving us Jesus as our Savior.
4. We thank God for His special gift of grace in our lives.
5. We pray in thanksgiving for our Baptism and for the Gift of the Holy Spirit.
6. The liturgical seasons (e.g., Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter) help us live our Faith as Catholic Christians.
7. The parish is a special place where we come to know others and pray with them.
8. The parish church has special objects used for celebration and to help us pray well.
9. The Church honors Mary and the saints and teaches us to imitate their holy lives.
10. The Mass is a very special celebration for God's people. We listen to God's Word and pray together as a family.

B. *Sharing and serving*

1. We love God, our families, our friends, and all people, especially those who are in need.
2. We participate in service activities to help those who cannot help themselves.
3. We fulfill the promises we make.
4. We thank and honor those people who help protect us and take care of us.
5. The greatest gift we can give to others is our love.

C. *Being good members of God's family (the Church) and our community*

1. We pray for those who are ill or who have died.
2. We forgive those who hurt us or make us feel bad.
3. We ask forgiveness from those we hurt by word or action.
4. We offer to help others when they are in need.
5. We love and obey our parents and those who care for us just as Jesus did.

6. We take care of all God's creation --the people, animals, earth, and air around us.
7. We try to be like Jesus in all we say and do.
8. We try always to choose what God wants us to do.

III. Activities/Assessments which promote learning about and living the Faith.

- A. Explores the world in order to learn about and appreciate God's creation
- B. Thanks God for His creation/makes up thank you prayers
- C. Listens/responds to Scripture readings
- D. Participates in Liturgical/Sacramental celebrations.
- E. Participates in daily prayer experiences.
- F. Participates in service opportunities.
- G. Visits the parish church.
- H. Demonstrates knowledge of simple liturgical gestures: genuflecting, making the Sign of the Cross using holy water.
- I. Articulates learning of doctrine/lessons presented.
- J. Asks questions about the Faith.
- K. Experiences the faith community in the classroom/school /parish/community.
- L. Knows and recites prayers appropriate to grade level.

IV. Prayers to be taught (*as specified in the scope and sequence of the religion series adopted for use*)

Curricular Framework for Religion

Grade Two

Emphasis: *Jesus nourishes us and strengthens God's life of grace within us through the Sacraments and the Mass.*

I. Learning our Faith: (Core Content)

A. The Life of Jesus

1. God the Father gives us the gift of Jesus.
2. Jesus is the Son of God.
3. Jesus is fully God and fully man.
4. The Christian Scriptures contain the story of Jesus.
5. Mary is the mother of Jesus.
6. Jesus lived in a family with Mary and Joseph who took care of Him as He grew up.
7. Jesus came to save all people.
8. Jesus began his Church on earth.
9. Jesus suffered and died for us on the cross (the Crucifixion) and rose from the dead (the Resurrection) to save us and bring us new life.
10. Jesus returned to his Father in heaven (the Ascension) and sent the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) to be with us always.
11. Jesus is present within us by the life of grace, in the Church, in his Word (Sacred Scripture), in all the Sacraments but in a special and unique way in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

B. The Trinity

1. There is only one God.
2. In God there are three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We call the three Persons in one God the Blessed Trinity.
4. God is the Creator of all that is.
5. God created everything and everyone good.
6. Jesus is the Only-Begotten Son of the Father.
7. Jesus is God's greatest gift to us.
8. The Holy Spirit is the Love between the Father and the Son.
9. The Holy Spirit acted in Jesus' life.
10. The Holy Spirit acts in our lives. He is our greatest Helper.
11. God the Father created us free to make choices and the Holy Spirit is always with us to help us make good choices.

C. The Church

1. The Church was born on Pentecost when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room.
2. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles courage to preach about Jesus and to baptize many who became believers in the Faith.
3. We become members of the Church at Baptism and participate in the life of the Church through the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.
4. The Catholic Church is a sacramental Church.

D. *The Sacraments*

1. There are seven Sacraments.
2. The Sacraments are signs which point to a deeper meaning.
3. The Sacraments give grace and celebrate God's love for us.
4. Through Baptism we are given new life, taken into God's family, and become members of his Church.
5. The Holy Spirit first comes to us in the Sacrament of Baptism.
6. Throughout life we are faced with good and bad choices when we disobey God's law we sin. God in his love forgives us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation when we express sorrow for our sins.
7. Jesus gives Himself to us in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.
8. The Holy Eucharist was instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper when He changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood.
9. The Eucharist is a sacrament of thanksgiving, sacrifice, unity, peace and justice
10. Confirmation is a Sacrament of initiation.
11. The Holy Spirit gives us grace and strength in Confirmation to live our Faith openly and share it with others.

E. *The Bible*

1. The Bible is the Word of God.
2. The Bible teaches us about God and how He wants us to live.
3. The Bible has many stories that tell us how much God loves us.
4. The Bible tells us all about God's plan for the world and for all of us who live in it.
5. From the Bible we learn about Jesus and how to live as His disciples.
6. At Mass we hear God's Word read to us through the Bible.
7. The Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.
8. At Mass we hear readings from both the Old and New Testaments.

II. Living our Faith

A. *Prayer and worship*

1. The Mass is a special celebration of the Church.
2. The Mass is the celebration of Jesus' Supper.
3. The Church gathers at Mass to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
4. The Mass is our greatest prayer.
5. The Mass is celebrated in a community of Faith.
6. The Mass recalls God's special love for us.
7. During the Mass we profess our belief in the Blessed Trinity-God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
8. The Mass follows a special format.
9. We grow in our understanding and participation in the Mass.
10. We listen to God speaking to us through the liturgy of the Word and pray together as God's family.
11. We prepare prayerfully to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.
12. The liturgical seasons help us reflect on Jesus' life and live our Faith as Catholic Christians.
13. The parish is the center of our worship and of our life in the Christian community.

B. *Sharing and serving*

1. From the Mass we learn to serve others as Jesus did throughout his life.
2. We treat others with respect recognizing that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God.
3. We reach out to the poor and less fortunate members of our society.
4. We help our classmates when they are in need.
5. We serve others and reflect on this service
6. We learn from Jesus how to forgive others.
7. We say thank you to the persons who help us and care for us.
8. We understand that at the end of Mass we are sent out to care for and serve others.
9. We try to be peacemakers with others who argue or fight.
10. We ask others to help us when we need them.

C. *Being good members of God's family (the Church) and our community.*

1. We keep the holy days established by the Church.
2. We learn about the leaders in the Church: the Pope, bishops, priests, religious, and lay ministers.
3. We actively participate in the Mass.
4. We experience and reflect on the consequences of our choices.
5. We pray for other people and for the world.
6. We try to live as peacemakers by saying we are sorry and making up when we do something that hurt others.

III. *Activities/Assessments which promote learning and living the Faith*

- A. Listens and retells stories of Jesus' life in own words
- B. Participates in frequent prayer experiences using a variety of formats (formal and spontaneous)
- C. Relates learning to real-life experiences
- D. Discusses and raises questions about doctrine
- E. Responds creatively to lessons learned (e.g. role-play, writing plays, etc.)
- F. Actively participates in liturgical/Sacramental celebrations
- G. Examines conscience in light of doctrine
- H. Lives out concept of stewardship in the Church
- I. Explains the meaning of major Feasts in the Church
- J. Demonstrates appropriate behavior and gestures for Mass
- K. Knows signs of the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Reconciliation
- L. Knows the name of the current Pope and Archbishop
- M. Participates in service opportunities
- N. Expresses gratitude for the gift of God's Son through prayer
- O. Treats others with respect and love
- P. Experiences and contributes to the faith community in the classroom/school/ parish/community
- Q. Knows and recites prayers appropriate to grade level
- R. Prays spontaneously in own words.

IV. Prayers to be taught (*as specified in the scope and sequence of the religion series adopted for use*)

Curricular Framework for Religion

Grade Three

Emphasis: *Jesus continues his life and work through his Church.*

I. Learning our Faith: (Core Content)

A. The Church: Mission, Structure, Marks

1. Jesus established his Church on earth and appointed St. Peter as the first Pope.
2. The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
3. The Church was born on Pentecost when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon his apostles to continue his work on earth.
4. The first Christians were followers of Jesus and formed the earliest Christian communities.
5. Jesus continues to live in the Church through His Spirit.
6. The Holy Spirit continues to draw Jesus' followers together as brothers and sisters into one Christian family, the Body of Christ
7. The Church welcomes new members by celebrating the sacraments of initiation.
8. The Catholic Church is the worldwide Christian community that recognizes the Pope and Bishops as its leaders and that celebrates the seven sacraments.
9. The Liturgy is a special celebration of the Church.
10. The Church divides the year into Liturgical Seasons which help us remember the life of Jesus.
11. The members of the Church:
 - ◆ pray; share the same Faith and Sacraments;
 - ◆ practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy;
 - ◆ participate in and honor missionary activity;
 - ◆ act according to principles of peace and justice.
12. The Church continues Jesus ministry of building community, preaching the word, worshiping, and serving the needs of others.
13. The Church works for love, unity, justice and peace.
14. Our parish Church is a community of Jesus' disciples gathered together for prayer, worship and service.

B. The Creed

1. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity.
2. God is forever faithful.
3. The love God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have for one another in the Trinity is the model of the love we are to have for one another.
4. Jesus was human in every way except sin.
5. Jesus loves us so much that He died for us on the Cross.
6. Jesus rose from the dead to bring us new life.
7. The Apostle's Creed summarizes our Faith.
8. The Nicene Creed is another way to summarize our Faith.

C. The Sacraments

1. God works through signs in our lives.
2. The Sacraments are signs of God's love for us.

3. Through the Sacraments we share God's life and love in the community of the Church.
4. The Sacraments of Initiation into the Church are Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.
5. Baptism is the first Sacrament received. Baptism fills us with sanctifying grace and makes us members of God's family.
6. Holy Eucharist is the Sacrament of Jesus' Body and Blood.
7. Jesus gave us the gift of Himself in the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper.
8. The Mass is the celebration of the Eucharist.
9. The celebration of the Eucharist is unchanging.
10. In Confirmation we are sealed with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
11. In the Sacrament of Confirmation the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of fortitude to live with courage and conviction as true disciples of Jesus Christ.
12. The Sacraments of Healing are Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Sick.
13. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we receive God's forgiveness of our sins and we are reconciled with the Church community.
14. Anointing of the sick brings peace and healing in soul, and sometimes in body, to the one who receives it.
15. Matrimony and Holy Orders are Sacraments of Vocation and Commitment.
16. The Sacrament of Holy Orders celebrates God's call and ordination to special ministry as bishop, priest, or deacon within the Church.
17. Matrimony celebrates God's call to a man and woman to be united with each other permanently in marriage and to minister in love to each other, to their children, and to the world.

D. *The Bible*

1. The Bible is the Word of God.
2. The Bible is the story of God's people.
3. God's faithfulness is demonstrated through salvation history.
4. The Bible consists of Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. The Hebrew Scriptures are the *Old Testament* and the Christian Scriptures are the *New Testament*.
5. Psalms are prayers that Jesus prayed from the *Old Testament*. We continue to pray these Psalms today.
6. The *New Testament* contains The Four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the Epistles and the *Acts of the Apostles*.
7. The Christian Scriptures tell us about Jesus and the early days of the Church.

II. Living the Faith

A. *Prayer and worship*

1. We show our appreciation for the Word of God by listening and responding to it in our lives.
2. We imitate Jesus whose life was one of prayer.
3. We frequently receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist.
4. We actively participate in Liturgical and Sacramental celebrations.
5. We thank God for the Gift of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and for the gift of His Spirit in the Church.
6. We give thanks to God for the special gift of the Mass.
7. We respect Sunday, the Sabbath, as a special time of prayer.
8. We value silence as a time for personal prayer.
9. We pray alone and with others.

10. We honor the Blessed Virgin Mary who holds a special place in the Church as Mother of Jesus and the greatest of all the disciples of Jesus.
11. We express special love for St. Joseph, husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. He is named Patron of the Universal Church.
12. We pray to Mary, St. Joseph, and all the saints of the Church, and we imitate their holiness of life.

B. *Sharing and serving*

1. We try to imitate Jesus who spent his life serving the needs of others.
2. We model our prayer after the example of Jesus whose life was one of prayer for others.
3. We pray for our families and friends, for those who have died, and for those who are in need.
4. We try to live in a way that others see Jesus in us by the way we help others at home, in school, in our parish, in our community
5. We strengthen the faith of one another by sharing stories about God and His Church.
6. We strive to work well with others as a team to carry on the mission of Jesus Christ.
7. We promote principles of peace and justice in all our service activities.
8. As disciples of Jesus Christ we learn to act as He did by becoming critical thinkers.

C. *Being good members of God's family (the Church) and our community*

1. We volunteer to help when we see a need at home, in school, in the parish, in the community.
2. We try to live as peacemakers and work for justice.
3. We forgive those who hurt us in any way and ask forgiveness when we hurt others.
4. We respect the religious beliefs of others when they are different from our own.
5. We learn and pray about contemporary events.
6. We ask for help and guidance from our Church leaders.

III. *Activities/Assessments which promote learning about and living the Faith*

- A. Listens/responds to Scripture
- B. Gives evidence of understanding "Faith" words taught in lessons
- C. Researches the lives of the saints
- D. Shows interest in the work of missionaries of the Church
- E. Writes own prayers
- F. Asks/responds to questions about the Faith
- G. Participates in spontaneous prayer
- H. Articulates learning of doctrine and lessons learned
- I. Manifests reverence for the Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist
- J. Frequents the sacraments
- K. Actively participates in daily prayer experiences
- L. Actively participates in Liturgical and Sacramental celebrations
- M. Relates learning to real-life experiences
- N. Explains each of the seven Sacraments
- O. Treats others with respect and kindness
- P. Acts as a peacemaker in difficult situations
- Q. Experiences and contributes to the building of community at home, in the classroom, in the parish, in the community.
- R. Participates in service opportunities.
- S. Knows and recites prayers appropriate to grade level.

IV. Prayers to be taught (*as specified in the scope and sequence of the religion series adopted for use*)

Curricular Framework for Religion

Grade Four

Emphasis: *We are called to live as Jesus did.*

I. Learning our Faith: (Core Content)

A. The Kingdom of God

1. Jesus preached the “Good News” about God’s Kingdom.
2. God’s Kingdom came in Jesus.
3. The Kingdom of God is the saving power of His life and love in the world.
4. Jesus taught that God must always come first in one’s life if one is to inherit the Kingdom.
5. Jesus taught that the Kingdom is for everyone but that each person must choose to work for the Kingdom.
6. Jesus used parables to tell people how to live for the Kingdom.
7. Jesus gave us the Beatitudes as our way of reaching the Kingdom.
8. Jesus taught us that to obey God is the only way to freedom and happiness.
9. Jesus taught us by His own life how to live and work for the Kingdom.

B. Morality: Living as Catholic Christians

1. We are created in God’s image and likeness having intellect (the power to think) and free will (the power to choose and to love).
2. The Holy Spirit is always there to help us make good choices and to live as true followers of Jesus.
3. The words and life of Jesus contained in the Christian Scriptures teach us to live morally good lives particularly through observance of the beatitudes and the new commandment of love.
4. The Hebrew Scriptures also help us live morally by an understanding God’s Covenant with us and by obeying the Ten Commandments.
5. Throughout their lives Christians form their consciences with the guidance of their Faith.
6. Christians make moral choices; all choices have consequences.
7. We sin when we disobey God and his Law, whether by thought, word, action or omission.
8. We sin seriously when we completely turn away from God and this is called “mortal” sin.
9. Less serious sin is called “venial.”
10. God loves us even when we sin.
11. God is always forgiving when we are sorry for our sins.
12. A mistake or an accident is not a sin.
13. We must cultivate the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love first received in Baptism.
14. We are called to serve others.
15. We are expected to practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
16. We must always put God first in our lives.

C. Sacraments: Reconciliation, Eucharist

1. We meet and follow Jesus in the Sacraments.
2. The Sacraments are special gifts of Grace.
3. Reconciliation calls us to reflect upon our life, be sorry for our sins, and to change our life for the better.
4. We experience the love, forgiveness and peace of Jesus in Reconciliation.

5. We celebrate the Rite of Penance.
6. Jesus shares Himself with us through His Word and through the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.
7. As God's people, we experience belonging and unity in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
8. The Eucharist helps us become the Body of Christ, the Church.

D. *The Church*

1. The Church was born on Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles.
2. Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are filled with God's life (sanctifying grace) and made members of His Church. As disciples of Jesus and members of the Church we live for the kingdom of God.
3. The Church (the Body of Christ), guided by the Holy Spirit, supports us in our response to living for God's kingdom:
4. by teaching us God's commandments,
5. by helping us form right consciences,
6. by pointing to the examples of Jesus, Mary, the saints and all who live the covenant.
7. The Church is a community of faith, hope, love and forgiveness.
8. We understand the Church by learning about the beginnings of the Church.
9. We learn about important figures in the history of the Church, and particularly those in the Northwest.

II. *Living Our Faith*

A. *Prayer and worship*

1. We understand, appreciate and celebrate the Church's Liturgical Seasons.
2. In the Sacraments we receive God's grace and the strength of the Holy Spirit
3. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation the Church celebrates our sorrow for sin and grants us mercy and forgiveness.
4. The Catholic Church is the Christian community which celebrates the seven sacraments and recognizes the Pope and Bishops as its leaders.
5. The Catholic Church continues Christ's Presence on earth.
6. The Mass is the central celebration for all God's people. Jesus gathers all of us in worship and thanksgiving and offers Himself to the Father for us.
7. The Holy Spirit helps and guides us in time of temptation.
8. We pray as a Church for peace and unity in the world community.
9. We thank God for the things of the earth and all of life within it.
10. The Church honors Mary and the saints, especially those of the Northwest.
11. We grow in our understanding of the theological and cardinal virtues through prayer and reflection.
12. We examine our conscience regularly in order to make our lives better and grow in holiness.

B. *Sharing and serving*

1. The Church community is the light of Christ and servant to the world.
2. The Church cares for those in need and works to build a better world.
3. We show our love for God by practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
4. Serve others and reflect on that service with others in light of the Life of Christ and His disciples.
5. We exercise stewardship by caring for and sharing the goods of the earth in a just manner.
6. Through faith and good example we share faith in Jesus Christ with others.
7. We help to build God's Kingdom by practicing faith, hope, love and forgiveness.

C. *Being good members of God's family (the Church) and our community*

1. We live the life of Jesus by following the Ten Commandments, the teachings of the Beatitudes, and the two Great Commandments of Jesus.
2. We teach others by our own good example to follow Jesus.
3. We love and respect ourselves, every other person, and life in all its forms.
4. We receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist often in order to grow in God's grace.
5. We show love and reverence to all those who take care of us and all those we take care of. We ask to be forgiven when we hurt others by word or deed.
6. We live in peace with our families, our friends, and especially with those who do not like us.
7. We build up the Kingdom of God by working for peace and justice in the world.
8. We exercise our discipleship by caring for and loving others who need us.

III. *Activities/Assessments which promote learning about and living the Faith.*

- A. Listens/responds to Scripture readings
- B. Participates in Liturgical/Sacramental celebrations
- C. Participates in and leads prayer services
- D. Demonstrates knowledge of Liturgical Seasons and Celebrations
- E. Articulates learning of doctrine/lessons presented
- F. Asks questions about the Faith
- G. Understands the meaning of a having a good conscience and of making good moral choices
- H. Helps build community in the classroom, in the school, at home, in the parish
- I. Participates in frequent prayer experiences using a variety of formats
- J. Identify and explain the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- K. Engages in Role-playing, writing of plays, poems, songs, etc. related to Scripture stories
- L. Articulates a clear understanding of Church as the Body of Christ
- M. Understands the leadership roles of the Pope and Bishops of the Church
- N. Knows the Rite of Reconciliation and participates appropriately
- O. Responds to scenarios of moral dilemmas using guidelines from the Faith
- P. Knows the stories of the lives of the saints, especially those of the Northwest
- Q. Memorizes the Ten Commandments, the Two Greatest Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- R. Examines concept of stewardship in the Church and one's responsibility within it
- S. Writes own prayers
- T. Observes created world to reinforce learning about God and persons' relationship to Him
- U. Participates in Liturgical and Sacramental celebrations
- V. Receives the Sacraments frequently
- W. Knows and recites prayers appropriate to grade level

IV. Prayers to be taught (*as specified in the scope and sequence of the religion series adopted for use*)

Curricular Framework for Religion

Grade Five

Emphasis: *We are called to live a Sacramental life.*

I. Learning our Faith: (Core Content)

A. Sacraments

1. God is the source of all life. We participate in God's life particularly through the sacraments.
2. The signs and symbols of the Sacraments are drawn from creation and human culture, given special meaning by events of the Old Covenant, and reach their fulfillment in Christ.
3. Sacrament is a sign by which Jesus shares God's life, Grace, with us.
4. The Church is called the Sacrament of Christ.
5. The Church celebrates seven Sacraments:
 - ◆ Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist;
 - ◆ Sacraments of Healing: Penance (Reconciliation), Anointing of the Sick;
 - ◆ Sacraments of Commitment: Matrimony, Holy Orders.
6. Through the Sacraments of Initiation we receive the fullness of the Spirit and become members of the Catholic Church:
7. The Holy Spirit first comes to us at Baptism and gives us freedom from sin and fills us with God's gift of supernatural life;
8. The Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way in the Sacrament of Confirmation bringing us His gifts and fruits to help us grow in our Faith and become strong witnesses to Jesus Christ;
9. By the power of His word and Spirit, Jesus Himself is present in the Holy Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine. He feeds us with His Body and Blood making us one with Him and with each other.
10. Through the Sacraments of Healing we are strengthened as members of the Church:
11. By the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) we receive God's merciful forgiveness for our personal sins and are reconciled with God, the Christian community, and ourselves;
12. In the Anointing of the Sick the priest anoints with holy oil someone who is seriously ill or aged so that through the power of Jesus the person's sins may be forgiven and health may be restored in soul and also sometimes in body.
13. Holy Orders is the Sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to His Apostles continues to be carried out in the Church until the end of time. Bishops and priests share the ministerial priesthood. Deacons are ordained to help the bishops and the priests.
14. The Sacrament of Matrimony is a sign of God's love for His people and Christ's love for His Church. In this Sacrament a baptized man and a baptized woman are united as husband and wife by freely entering into a permanent, loving and life-giving covenant of fidelity to each other. The matrimonial covenant by its nature is ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring.

B. The Trinity

1. There are three Persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. God is everywhere, especially in the Church and through other people.
3. God is present to us in Jesus who is the Sacrament of His presence.
4. Jesus reveals to us the Father and the Holy Spirit.
5. God teaches and heals us through Jesus.
6. Jesus speaks the word of God and brings us His healing power.

7. Jesus is the Sacrament of God's presence.
8. Jesus is both human and divine.
9. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit as He gave the Holy Spirit to His disciples on Pentecost and we celebrate this gift in the Sacraments.
10. The Holy Spirit and the Sacraments guide us and give us strength and grace.
11. The love the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have for one another in the Trinity is the model of the love we are to have for one another.

C. *The Church*

1. The Church is the Sacrament of Christ in the world.
2. The Church reveals the presence of the risen Christ.
3. The Church celebrates the presence and action of Christ in our lives through the seven Sacraments.
4. All members of the Church are members of the Body of Christ.
5. The Church celebrates its unity in the Eucharist.
6. The Church continues Christ's presence on earth and carries on His work.
7. The Church is one, holy, Catholic, apostolic.

D. *Ecumenism*

1. Jesus, sent by the Father, came to save all people and invites everyone into the Kingdom.
2. Prejudice blinds us to the goodness and truth of others and has consequences in a community.
3. Creeds summarize what people believe.
4. Catholic Christians have distinctive objects, gestures, prayers, and beliefs different from other religions.

II. *Living our Faith*

A. *Prayer and worship*

1. At the Eucharistic celebration we gather together in community to praise and thank the Father, to listen to God's Word, and to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.
2. We reverently prepare to celebrate and receive the Sacraments.
3. We cherish and participate in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
4. We reverence the signs and symbols of our Faith.
5. We express our beliefs through prayer.
6. We appreciate the Mass as the highest form of worship.
7. We thank God for the gift of life.
8. We prayerfully participate in the Stations of the Cross.
9. We pray for peace and unity in the world community.
10. We pray for those who have hurt us as well as for those who have been good to us.
11. We thank God for the gift of forgiveness.
12. We pray in reparation for social sins in our world such as greed, prejudice, and failure to help those who need help such as the homeless in our midst.
13. We pray to be forgiven for those times when we refused to be reconciled with friends, members of our family, or those we do not like or who do not like us.

B. *Sharing and serving*

1. We understand and share the meaning of the symbols of our Faith.
2. We consciously try to be like Jesus in our service to other people.
3. We practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

4. We live out our baptismal promises.
5. We receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation when we fail to love God and others, as we should.
6. We show respect for the dignity of each and every person.
7. We actively work against prejudice and other social sins when we encounter them in any form.

C. *Being good members of God's family (The Church)*

1. We teach others important information about the Faith.
2. We are respectful of the beliefs of others and of the symbols they use.
3. We teach lessons on the sacraments to someone younger than ourselves.
4. We strive to live a sacramental life.
5. We apologize and ask pardon when we have done wrong.
6. We reach out to others in the community who are less fortunate than ourselves.
7. We practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
8. We do all we can to continue Jesus' mission of bringing the Good News to the entire world.
9. We pray for and are guided by our Church leaders.
10. We do all that we can to learn and apply the steps for making good moral choices.
11. We live our faith courageously even when people make fun of us or try to get us to do wrong.

III. *Activities/Assessments which promote learning about and living the Faith.*

- A. Listens/responds to Scripture readings
- B. Participates in frequent prayer experiences using a variety of formats
- C. Responds creatively to lessons taught
- D. Reads lives of the saints
- E. Does journal writing
- F. Discusses and asks questions
- G. Reflects on self and the service rendered to others
- H. Demonstrates knowledge and appreciation of the Scriptures
- I. Relates learning to and thinks critically about real-life situations
- J. Participates in Liturgical services
- K. Initiates prayer services
- L. Prays using different forms of prayer
- M. Raises questions about the Faith in order to understand or learn more
- N. Manifests compassion and concern for others
- O. Reads and explains passages from Scripture
- P. Traces themes in the Bible
- Q. Explains symbols of the Sacraments
- R. Discusses characteristics of holiness found in people in the Scriptures and in today's society
- S. Acts as a peacemaker in the classroom and on the playground
- T. Discusses the connections between Scripture and one's own life
- U. Writes stories/plays/poems about the Scriptures
- V. Reads the lives of the saints and tells about the saints to classmates
- W. Relates historical events and persons to the time of Jesus and the early Church
- X. Identifies various literary forms used in the Scriptures

IV. Prayers to be taught (*as specified in the scope and sequence of the religion series adopted for use*)

Curricular Framework for Religion

Grade Six

Emphasis: *God's plan is revealed through salvation history.*

I. Learning our Faith: (Core Content)

A. The Bible

1. Sacred Scripture, the Bible, is the written revelation of God.
2. The Bible is divided into the Old Testament (the Hebrew Scriptures) and the New Testament (the Christian Scriptures)
3. Sacred Scripture, the Bible, is the inspired Word of God. This means that God inspired and guided the authors in their writing.
4. The Bible tells the story of God's covenant with His people.
5. The Bible teaches us the importance of keeping God's covenant.
6. The authors of the Bible used many different literary forms to convey God's messages (e.g., historical accounts, parables, poetry, letters, allegories, and proverbs).
7. We learn from the Bible the origin of good and evil.
8. The Bible teaches us that sin and evil are the result of free choice.
9. The Bible focuses on the theme that God and goodness will win out over sin and evil.

B. Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures)

1. The first book of the Old Testament is the Book of Genesis. Important Stories in this book include:
2. the story of creation
3. the story of the fall of Adam and Eve
4. the story of Noah and the flood.
5. The creation stories in the Bible are not factual accounts but are intended to teach important truths of our faith:
6. there is only one God, not many gods;
7. all of creation was made by God. None of God's creatures is a fallen god;
8. all of creation was made by God who is good and loving. Creation is not the result of a war between gods.
9. human beings are created by God in His Image and Likeness with intellect and free will.
10. the Bible stories of creation help us understand something about God and the reasons for which He created us.
11. The Old Testament is the account of God's saving actions in the history of the Jewish people whom God chose as his own.
12. Some major figures in the development of God's relationship with the chosen people include:
13. Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Ruth, Joseph, Deborah, Moses, Esther, Judith, Solomon, Samuel, Saul, David.
14. The central saving event of the Old Testament is the *Exodus*. In this event God revealed to the Israelites that He is their God and they His Chosen People.
15. God spoke to His people through judges, kings, priests and prophets, sages and poets
16. The Old Testament contains the roots of our faith.
17. Our ancestors shaped our culture and tradition.

C. *New Testament (Christian Scriptures)*

1. Jesus, God's Only Begotten Son, is the center of God's plan for the world. He is the strongest sign of God's presence in the history of the world.
2. The New Testament begins with the coming of Jesus Christ into the world and provides an account of the saving actions of Jesus, His life, death, and resurrection.
3. Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises in the Hebrew Scriptures.
4. Jesus fulfills the Old Testament roles of priest, prophet and king.
5. Jesus fulfills the Old Covenant by making a New Covenant with us.
6. Prominent figures in the New Testament include such persons as:
 - ◆ Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth and Zachary, John the Baptist, Martha and Mary, Peter, James, John and the other Apostles, Mary Magdalene, and Paul.
7. Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God.
8. God reveals His love for us in the Scriptures and especially in Jesus, His Son.
9. God reveals that He wants us to share in His life through the gift of grace.
10. The New Testament provides an account of the beginnings of the Church.
11. There are four Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Each presents a different perspective. The Gospel of John is unique among the Gospels.
12. Themes can be identified in the Christian Scriptures.

D. *The Church*

1. The early Church was a community of the followers of Jesus.
2. The Church was born on the Feast of Pentecost.
3. The Church is rooted in many signs and symbols found in the Old Testament.
4. The Church is a sign of God's presence in the world today through the saving actions of Jesus Christ. These are expressed both in the Sacraments and in the faith and good works of the community, the Body of Christ.
5. The Church is identified by four marks: one, holy, catholic, apostolic.
6. The history of the Church reflects both the presence of good and of evil in the world.
7. In order to understand the Church we must understand her history.
8. There have been periods of needed reform throughout the Church's history.
9. The Church stands in solidarity with all people, especially with the poor.
10. The Holy Spirit is always at work in the Church guiding its members and helping them to live and love as Jesus did.
11. The Church instructs and helps us understand that only obedience to the Commandments and adherence to Church teachings will bring one the true freedom and happiness God intends for everyone.
12. There have been many saints in the Church throughout the ages and many holy people are living among us today.
13. Historically, Rome became and remains the governing center of the Church.

E. *The Sacraments*

1. The Sacraments are special signs within the life of the Church through which Jesus truly becomes present with us and acts in our lives by His grace.
2. Sacramental actions of the Church originated in Jewish rituals: anointing with oil, laying on of hands, purifying with water, sharing a meal.
3. The story of Noah and the flood reminds Catholics of the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Reconciliation which are part of the special covenant we have with God through Jesus Christ.

4. We are celebrating our covenant with Jesus when we celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Reconciliation.

II. Living our Faith

A. *Prayer and worship*

1. The Liturgy is the most important act of worship in the Catholic community.
2. The liturgical seasons help us live our Faith as Catholic Christians.
3. The Sacraments are celebrated by a worshipping community.
4. Worship is a mark of the Kingdom of God.
5. The Psalms are prayers Jesus prayed while on earth and remain an important part of our Catholic worship today.
6. The parish church is a special place of worship where we come to know others and pray with them for the needs of the Church and for each other.
7. We honor Mary and the saints as models of how we must live and ask them to intercede for us to help us reach heaven.
8. We prayerfully reflect on passages from the Bible.
9. We pray for God's mercy upon the world knowing that He can conquer the forces of evil.
10. We pray to Jesus as Redeemer and King who by His life, death and resurrection has opened for us the meaning of life's mysteries.
11. We use Sacred Scripture as a regular source for study and prayer in order to grow in an understanding of ourselves and of God's loving will in our regard.
12. We turn to God in prayer each day and ask for His strength to carry out His will.
13. God speaks to our hearts when we are quiet.

B. *Sharing and serving*

1. As Catholics we respect other religions and pray for the unity of all Christian churches.
2. In a world that faces threats of war and destruction and experiences the weakening of the moral fabric of society we extend hope and faith to those who have none and we strive to live in peace with others.
3. We reach out in service to the poor and the aged, to persons with disabilities, to the homeless and the lonely.
4. We seek to develop our leadership qualities so that we may do the works of justice and charity in our parish and community.
5. We study the Documents of the Councils, encyclicals of the Popes, and pastoral letters of the Bishops in order to grow in our understanding of revelation.
6. We must work in partnership with God in order to be channels of His grace to others.

C. *Being good members of God's family (the Church) and our community.*

1. We reverently use the Bible and teach others to do the same.
2. We are actively involved in parish activities.
3. We explore with others the meaning of "solidarity with the poor."
4. We study Church history in order to know the beginnings, struggles, and growth of the Church through the ages.
5. We offer to help others when we become aware of their needs.
6. We work against those things within our community which are sources of evil and sin.
7. We appreciate and respect the integrity of all God's creation.
8. We use our personal gifts and talents from God for the good of others and as responsible stewards for making the world a better place within which to live.
9. We grow in our understanding of the meaning of freedom and exercise our freedom responsibly.

III. Activities/Assessments which promote learning about and living the Faith.

- A. Listens/responds to Scripture readings
- B. Participates in Liturgical/Sacramental celebrations
- C. Readily locates books of the Bible
- D. Identifies books as New Testament or Old Testament
- E. Understands and explains symbols used in the Old and New Testaments
- F. Retells in own words the stories of the Bible
- G. Identifies different literary forms used in the Bible
- H. Names as situates in a context important Biblical figures and historical events
- I. Identifies and explains ways in which God continues to work through people and events today.
- J. Knows and explains the four marks of the Catholic Church
- K. Reads and retells stories of the lives of the saints
- L. Discusses and raises questions pertaining to the Faith
- M. Responds creatively to lessons taught.
- N. Identifies and explains the Sacraments of the Church
- O. Traces selected themes in the Bible
- P. Identifies key figures found in the Old and New Testaments
- Q. Reads and explains passages from Scripture
- R. Locates Hebrew passages which appear to point to Jesus
- S. Compares the Synoptic Gospels.
- T. Discusses holiness found in contemporary people (e.g., Our Holy Father, Mother Theresa, Maximilian Kolbe, Edith Stein, St. Maria Goretti)
- U. Participates in parish and community activities
- V. Volunteers participation in service activities
- W. Learns the history of the parish to which one belongs
- X. Explores the meaning of “solidarity with the poor”
- Y. Explains and appreciates the Judeo-Christian heritage
- Z. Discusses connections between God’s Word and one’s own life
- AA. Acts as a peacemaker in the classroom, school, and on the playground
- BB. Manifests compassion and concern for others

IV. Prayers to be taught (*as specified in the scope and sequence of the religion series adopted for use*)

Curricular Framework for Religion

Grade Seven

Emphasis: *Jesus is the self-revelation of God, the source of salvation, and the focus of the Catholic Faith.*

I. Learning the Faith: (Core Content)

A. Jesus

1. The Jewish nation looked forward to the coming of the Messiah.
2. “When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman” (*Gal. 4:4*)
3. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary and lived in a family. Joseph was His foster father.
4. Jesus is fully human and fully divine.
5. Jesus grew in His awareness of Himself and His life’s mission.
6. There are a number of historical sources that verify and support the existence of Jesus e.g., the Jewish historical records of Josephus and the Roman historical records of Tacitus.
7. The gospels are the most valuable source of information about Jesus Christ.
8. Jesus truly experienced human temptations, was hungry, grew tired, and needed to pray.
9. Jesus was a Jew and practiced the traditions of His ancestors He worshiped in the local synagogue and at the temple in Jerusalem.
10. Jesus came to save everyone and taught about the Kingdom of Heaven.
11. Jesus spoke with authority.
12. Jesus suffered and died on the cross to save everyone.
13. The resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our Faith.
14. The Risen Christ was seen and experienced by His followers (e.g., He ate with them, showed them His wounds, spoke with them).
15. The risen body of Christ was transformed and glorified and no longer subject to the laws of space and time (e.g. Jesus passed through locked doors)
16. Jesus ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
17. Jesus is high priest, the one mediator between God and humanity.

B. Sacraments

1. The Sacraments are signs of Christ’s presence with us.
2. Eucharist celebrates the eternal presence of the risen Christ.
3. The Sacraments are an integral part of the Catholic way of life.
4. Baptism is the entrance into the Christian life and the beginning of one’s relationship with Christ. Through Baptism one becomes an adopted child of God and member of the Church.
5. Baptism and Confirmation celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit who helps us share in Jesus’ ministry and forms us into one Body of Christ.
6. The Sacrament of Penance celebrates Christ’s reconciling presence to sinners and sinners’ reconciliation with God, with others, and with themselves.
7. The Sacrament of Holy Orders celebrates God’s call and ordination to special ministry as bishop, priest, or deacon:
 - ♦ bishops receive the fullness of the priesthood and are the chief teachers of the Church. They are entrusted by God with safeguarding the great deposit of faith that belongs to the Church;

- ◆ priests are ordained by the Bishop and are co-workers with their Bishops in the Church's work of teaching, governing, and sanctifying. Priests are the Bishops' representatives in the pastoral care of God's people;
 - ◆ deacons do not share in the priesthood as Bishops and priests do, but are ordained for a specific ministry of service in the Church according to their rank in the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
8. Matrimony is a sign of Christ's love for His Church. The Sacrament celebrates God's call to a man and woman to be united with each other permanently in marriage and to minister in love to each other, to their children, and to the world.

C. *The Holy Spirit*

1. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on Pentecost.
2. The Holy Spirit gave birth to Christ's Church and continues to aid and protect it.
3. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to help us carry out our ministry.
4. The Holy Spirit guides each member of the Church to develop virtues and make good choices.
5. The coming of the Holy Spirit is the completion of the Paschal Mystery.
6. The Holy Spirit guides the missionary activity of the Church.
7. The Holy Spirit draws persons into the Church.
8. It is the Holy Spirit who strengthens members of the Church to speak out against injustices, oppression and poverty in the world.
9. The Holy Spirit is active in our lives through sanctifying grace.

D. *The Church*

1. The Church was born on Pentecost.
2. The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
3. The Church continues Christ's mission of reconciliation.
4. The Church is the people of God, but the people of God as the body of Christ (*i.e., the people of God in Christ, not without Him.*)
5. As members of Christ's body, members receive their life from Christ Himself through the power of the Holy Spirit, especially in the Sacraments.
6. In the Church there are many gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit for the good of the whole body.
7. The Church is a mystery, unlike any other community.
8. Christ founded his Church upon the Apostles with Peter as Head.
9. Bishops are successors of the Apostles and act in the name of Christ.
10. There are a variety of ministries within the Church.
11. The Church's Ecumenical Councils raised awareness of Jesus and His Mission.

II. Living our Faith

A. *Prayer and worship*

1. Liturgical prayer has a special place in the life of the Church and each member within it.
2. We offer ourselves with Jesus who continues to offer Himself in the Sacrifice of the Mass which re-presents the one Sacrifice of Calvary.
3. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross humanity has entered into a whole new relationship with God. We now celebrate a new covenant established in the blood of Christ.
4. Each time we participate in the Mass and share in the Body and Blood of Christ, we celebrate the new covenant and are in communion with God and one another.
5. We give thanks to God for the gift of the Sacraments and receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist often.

6. We attend Mass on Sundays and holy days designated by the Church.
7. The liturgical seasons help us to learn and live our Faith more fully as Catholic Christians.
8. We pray the Scriptures and listen carefully to the Word of God read at Mass.
9. We thank God for His Son and for the Church He has given us to teach and guide us.

B. *Sharing and serving*

1. As disciples of Jesus, we seek to actively alleviate the suffering of others.
2. We participate in service opportunities offered through the Church and the community.
3. We live out the attitudes, values and ideals of Jesus which go counter to today's world.
4. We do all we can to grow in our understanding and appreciation of the gift of life, and seek to protect life in all its forms.
5. We join with our fellow Catholics as well as with all Christians in the struggle against all that diminishes quality of life or the dignity of the human person.
6. We seek out the less fortunate members of our community and do what we can to help them.
7. We seek opportunities to teach others about the Faith.

C. *Being good members of God's family (the Church) and our community*

1. We pray for those who do not know or openly reject God.
2. We make efforts to grow in our love for others and forgive anyone who may hurt us in any way.
3. We read and seek to understand the Church's documents so that we may grow in our Faith and service to others.
4. We strive to live according to the teachings and example of Jesus and in harmony with the commandments.
5. We seek to make good moral choices by reflecting, talking with others who can help us, and praying to the Holy Spirit for light and strength.
6. We follow Church teachings and seek help when we have questions that we cannot answer by ourselves.
7. We understand that Faith is a gift that must be nurtured throughout our lives.
8. We encourage others to use their gifts in the service of others.
9. We respect the beliefs of those who profess other faiths.
10. We strive to imitate the lives of Mary and the saints who teach us how to love and serve God.

III. *Activities/Assessments which promote learning about and living the Faith.*

- A. Prayerfully reads the Bible
- B. Recognizes and speaks about finding Jesus in the ordinary events of everyday life
- C. Serves others and reflects on that service in light of Jesus, the Servant of all
- D. Locates specific events in the Bible
- E. Understands and uses terminology from the Old and New Testaments
- F. Explains Church symbols
- G. Knows important events and people in Church history and time periods in which these appear
- H. Articulates specific characteristics of a disciple of Jesus
- I. Explains Gospel basis for service to others
- J. Identifies signs and symbols used in the Sacraments
- K. Responds to moral dilemmas using the life of Jesus and the Church's teachings as referents
- L. Leads prayers at assemblies
- M. Participates in Liturgical/Sacramental celebrations
- N. Responds creatively to lessons taught

- O. Knows the composition and purposes of an “Ecumenical Council”
- P. Reads lives of the saints, Scripture, textbooks, etc. to learn about and grow in the Faith
- Q. Looks for holiness in contemporary persons
- R. Traces themes in the Bible
- S. Identifies and practices one’s stewardship responsibility within the Church
- T. Relates what is learned about the Faith to real-life situations
- U. Sees connections between the Church, the Body of Christ, and the communion of saints
- V. Respects Jewish roots of the Christian tradition

IV. Prayers to be taught (*as specified in the scope and sequence of the religion series adopted for use*)

Curricular Framework for Religion

Grade Eight

Emphasis: *“The Church, called by God to be holy in all its members, continues to be at work in the world.” (The Religious Dimension of Catholic Education in a Catholic School, #77)*

I. Learning our Faith: (Core Content)

A. Jesus and His Mission

1. The Church was part of God’s Plan from all eternity.
2. Through the Church God planned to share His Divine Life to which He called all people through His Son, Jesus Christ.
3. Long before Jesus came to earth, God formed gradually over time the people of Israel to be a nation of His own and established with them a covenant whereby He would their God and they would be His people.
4. God’s covenant with Israel foreshadowed a future time when He would establish a new and everlasting covenant through Jesus, His only Son.
5. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary, His mother.
6. Jesus was fully human and fully divine.
7. Jesus grew in awareness of Himself and His life’s mission.
8. Jesus was a Jew and practiced the traditions of His ancestors. He worshiped in the local synagogue and at the temple in Jerusalem.
9. Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament.
10. Jesus began His public ministry by inviting people to follow Him as His disciples.
11. Jesus choose 12 disciples to be His apostles and these men became the foundation of the new covenant.
12. Jesus inaugurated His Church by preaching the Good News, i.e. the coming of the Reign of God Promised over the ages in the scriptures.
13. Jesus suffered and died on the Cross for the salvation of all people.
14. Jesus’ death is both the Paschal sacrifice that accomplished the definitive redemption of humanity and the sacrifice of the New Covenant which restores man to communion with God through the “blood of the covenant which was poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (1 Pet 2:24; cf. Mt. 26:42)
15. Jesus rose from the dead to bring us new life.
16. Jesus established Peter as head of the Church on earth.
17. The apostles were the first priests and bishops of the Church.

B. The Church: History and Theology

1. The Church began on the feast of Pentecost.
2. The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
3. The Church is in history but at the same time transcends it.
4. The Christian Scriptures reveal an early Church struggling for survival.
5. Monasticism preserved the Catholic Faith in the West.
6. The Church has functioned in a variety of roles over the centuries.
7. Doctrines and creeds express Christian beliefs.
8. The Catholic Church developed creeds to respond to questions about the Faith.

9. There are beliefs and practices that are distinctive to the Catholic Faith.
10. The Tradition of the Catholic Church has powerfully influenced the practice of the Faith.
11. The Church considers a knowledge of history essential to a proper understanding of the Faith.
12. The Church is both human and divine. The mistakes of some do not change the true nature of the Church as Jesus gave it. The Holy Spirit will continue to be active in the Church until the end of time.
13. The Church is continually in need of reform and renewal.
14. In the midst of difficult times, God always raises up holy men and women to lead people to follow Christ more closely and be better members of the Church.
15. The Church seeks to evangelize all areas of the world.
16. People from every culture and every nation profess and live the Catholic Faith
17. The Church has the obligation to teach. She is mandated by Jesus “to go and make disciples of all nations” and to “teach them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (*Mt. 28:19-20*).
18. The Church has spoken infallibly in certain areas.
19. The institutional structure of the Church is hierarchical in nature.
20. The Church in the United States has a distinct history.
21. The history of the Catholic Church in the Northwest has shaped the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon.

C. *The Holy Spirit*

1. The Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles on Pentecost.
2. The Church began with the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.
3. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the early Christian communities grew to become a Church open to the whole world.
4. The Holy Spirit always inspires and guides reform and renewal of the Church.
5. The Holy Spirit helps the Catholic Church adapt creatively to the needs of the times.
6. The Holy Spirit is leading the Church in the new evangelization movement today.
7. The Holy Spirit unifies, reconciles, helps and guides the Christian community.

D. *The Sacraments*

1. The Sacraments are special signs within the life of the Church of Christ’s grace and our faith.
2. The Sacraments are an integral part of the life of the Church and of Christians.
3. The Sacraments are actions of the Risen Christ acting through His Church to love, heal and call us to change.
4. The Sacraments celebrate the presence and meaning of Christ in our most important life experiences.
5. The Eucharist was instituted by Christ and is a remembrance and re-enactment of the Last Supper.
6. The Eucharistic Liturgy developed over time. The Eucharist is the central celebration of the Church.

II. Living our Faith

A. *Prayer and worship*

1. Participation in the holy sacrifice of the Mass is the highest form of worship.
2. We render thanks to God for the gift of the Sacraments, especially for the Holy Eucharist.
3. The Church has preserved a rich heritage of prayer forms.
4. Catholic prayer is often expressed in music, visual art, and other art forms.
5. The Church invites us to celebrate with her the Life of Christ through the Liturgical Seasons.
6. The Church celebrates the feasts of Mary and the saints and teaches us to imitate their holy lives.

B. *Sharing and serving*

1. Service to others is prayer carried into action.
2. As Christians we are called to serve others.
3. We respect human life in all its stages of development and strive to improve the quality of life for others by sharing the Good News.
4. We promote the Church's social teachings and extend compassion to those we find in need.
5. We promote the Church's principles of social justice and peace and work to influence changes in public policy so that it reflects these principles.
6. We stand with the Church in solidarity with the poor and marginalized in our society.
7. We reverence human life in all its forms as the basis of Catholic social thought and action.
8. We accept the principle of stewardship and live out this principle in our responsibility for the world around us and in our service to others.

C. *Being good members of God's family (the Church) and our community*

1. As Catholic Christians we recognize our moral responsibilities which flow from our life of Faith.
2. Our Catholic values guide us in making ethical social, political, and economic decisions.
3. We read the documents which come forth from Our Holy Father and the Bishops, as well as other Church documents, so that we may learn and live our Faith as fully as possible.
4. We study Church history in order to understand the Church and adhere more firmly to our Catholic beliefs.
5. As Catholics we know the meaning of sin and frequent the Sacrament of Penance in order to repair our relationship with Christ and build up our defenses against the many temptations that come from the world around us.
6. We seek as Catholics to respond to our conscience when it sends a signal to warn us that what we are about to do, or have done, is sinful.
7. The Ten Commandments help us in our moral decision-making.
8. We use our gifts and talents in the service of others.
9. We appreciate the fact that the Church is both human and divine and that some of its members will not always act rightly or in truth.
10. We pray for the Church, for its leaders, and for one another.

III. *Activities/Assessments which promote learning about and living the Faith.*

- A. Participates in frequent prayer experiences using different formats
- B. Actively participates in meaningful service opportunities
- C. Discusses what one has learned and asks insightful questions
- D. Participates in Liturgical/Sacramental celebrations
- E. Examines concept of stewardship within the Church and exercises one's responsibility in this regard
- F. Actively participates in one's parish community
- G. Leads and initiates prayer services
- H. Assists in parish, neighborhood, and civic clean-up activities
- I. Demonstrates familiarity with Church documents
- J. Analyzes and discusses current public policy on social issues using the Church's social teaching as the criteria
- K. Demonstrates familiarity with Church history and is able to place events and important figures on a time line
- L. Is able to talk about the history of the Church in the Northwest and particularly in Oregon
- M. Discusses lives of the saints and missionary activities of the Church

- N. Identifies the four marks of the Church and is able to discuss the meaning of each
- O. Recognizes and discusses problems and effects of prejudice and bias
- P. Participates in service opportunities to the poor and marginalized and reflects on one's participation
- Q. Reads and retells stories of the lives of the saints
- R. Role-plays stories from the Bible
- S. Writes own prayers
- T. Creates a time line for Church history and discusses major events or important people
- U. Expresses Faith through prayer, worship, action
- V. Searches out how people of other cultures express their worship of God

IV. Prayers to be taught (*as specified in the scope and sequence of the religion series adopted for use*)