

St. Augustin Catholic Church



Religious Education Parent Handbook 2009 - 2010

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Religious Education Program Handbook

Mission Statement

The Religious Education Program exists to ensure that all children/youth of St. Augustin Parish who do not attend the School are provided:

- A. Excellent educational instruction in the Faith.
- B. Spiritual development through religious experience.
- C. Group opportunities to experience the life of a Christian faith community.
- D. Positive adult role models through instructors, Parish Staff, and lay resource people.

By providing this growth in spiritual life, we are committed to preparing our children and youth for Catholic adult life.

Procedures for 2009 - 2010

Class times: Class times for Grades 1-8 will be Wednesday evenings from 6:45 - 8:00 p.m. in the St. Augustin School. Please see calendar in this handbook for specific dates of classes.

Tuition: There is a registration fee for the Religious Education Program. This fee goes directly to cover the cost of books, supplies, and special events. Sacramental years (2nd and 8th grades) also include a sacramental fee to cover extra expenses. **NO FAMILY WILL BE TURNED AWAY FOR MONETARY REASONS. Parents who desire financial assistance need only contact the Pastor or Director of Religious Education (DRE).**

Active, Participating

Parish Member Tuition

1 child	\$150.00
2 children	\$250.00
3 or more	\$300.00

All Other Families

1 child	\$300.00
2 children	\$325.00
3 or more	\$350.00

Our pastor considers each request for active, participating member tuition fees based in part on the following criteria: family registration at St. Augustin Parish; attendance and participating in liturgy; volunteerism at parish events; active prayer life and support for ministry programs through regular tithing. Applicants for Active, Participating Parish Member Tuition will be notified by return mail if they do not meet these requirements.

Sacramental Fees: \$20.00 - First Reconciliation (grade 2)
\$20.00 - First Communion (grade 2)
\$40.00 - Confirmation (grade 8)

All fees are due by the first day of class. A late fee of \$5.00 per month per child will be assessed beginning 30 days after the start of classes. (Passed by the Board of Education 2/89)

Attendance: It is very important that parents notify the teacher or DRE if they are planning to be out of town or if their child is sick. With notification, arrangements can be made to make up the missing work.

Excused Absences: An excused absence is one in which the parents have notified the teacher or DRE ahead of time. Exceptions to this would be emergencies. More than three excused absences will require a meeting with the parent or parents and the teacher. The student will be required to complete the missed class work.

Unexcused Absences: An unexcused absence occurs when parents have not notified the teacher or DRE ahead of time. Also, anytime a student is more than 15 minutes late to class, it is considered an unexcused absence. More than three unexcused absences will require a meeting with the parent or parents and the teacher. Continual absences may result in the student being asked to forgo the rest of the school year and return the following year to repeat the grade.

Note: We want your child to attend every year to receive the full benefit of the education, sacramental graces, fellowship, and group experiences. Without attending class, a student cannot obtain the material necessary to progress to the next year's class.

Attendance is essential for all grade levels, not just sacramental years. Students who are asked to leave for attendance or discipline reasons (and who do not enter another parish's RE program or otherwise finish the program) cannot move up another grade level the following year.

Homework

Homework should not be busy work, but an extension of the learning process in the classroom. Homework is an essential part of the RE Program simply because we only have one hour a week to instruct your child. Religious Education should have the same priority as regular class work.

A. Homework and due dates are up to the discretion of each individual teacher.

B. We encourage parents to participate in the religious education of their child; without parental support, the RE program will not succeed. Parent should take an active interest in their child's work. We encourage parents to regularly ask about homework and to check to see if assignments have been completed. We wish to remind parents that our RE teachers are all volunteers, not full-time teachers. They need your support, both at home, by encouraging your child to complete their homework, and in the classroom, by expecting your child to behave properly.

Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental preparation is a very important part of religious education. Students who are preparing to receive sacraments must adhere to the following:

- A. The St. Augustin Attendance Policy. Students with more than three unexcused absences may not be considered for receiving any sacrament.
- B. There are parent meetings for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. At least one parent is required to attend these meetings.
- C. All sacramental fees must be paid prior to receiving the sacrament.

Confirmation

- A. Confirmation students will attend sessions with both the School and Religious Education eighth graders.
- B. Mass of Dedication: At this Mass, all St. Augustin eighth graders preparing for Confirmation will be recognized and blessed. Candidates will present a Letter of Intent to the presiding priest.
- C. Each Confirmation candidate will be required to complete 20 hours of community service prior to receiving Confirmation. These service projects must be approved by the Confirmation teacher or DRE. (See Confirmation Candidate Handbook for more information regarding the Confirmation Program.)
- D. All required paperwork **MUST** be completed before the celebration of the sacrament. Any candidate who does not have the required work turned into the DRE may be considered not ready to receive the sacrament.

More information on the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be given at the Confirmation Candidate and Parent Meeting held each Fall.

Discipline Policy: St. Augustin Board of Education

Discipline is defined as the training that develops self-control, character, and orderly conduct, as well as acceptance of or submission to authority. The home and RE Program must work in such a way that children learn to conduct their personal lives in the sanctity of the truth of Christ, and to develop the capacity to promote Christian transformation of the world.

The students of St. Augustin are entitled to learn and develop in a setting that promotes respect for self, others, and property. The classroom environment should encourage academic and social maturation and promote the dignity and worth of each student in preparation for the responsibilities of adulthood.

Breach of Discipline is any conduct of students that interferes with the maintenance of RE Program discipline. Acts of behavior which tend to conflict with the educational program or which are antagonistic to the welfare of other students cannot be tolerated. Insubordination and gross misbehavior are incompatible with good citizenship and good government. Examples of different classifications of breach of discipline are:

1. Temper tantrums which disrupt class.
2. Bully-type behavior.
3. Open defiance involving; refusal to conform to the rules and regulations, profane and obscene language; obscene gestures, loud and boisterous conduct which disturbs the orderly, efficient, and disciplined atmosphere and operation of the RE Program; refusal to comply with the request or direction of teachers, administrators, or other program personnel.
4. Willful disobedience,
5. Continuous breaking of RE Program rules.
6. Physical attack on others or threats of physical attack, physical violence or other threats.
7. The use, possession, purchase, or sale of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or drug paraphernalia.
8. Possession or weapons such as guns, knives, fireworks or other dangerous objects.
9. Personal misbehavior such as extortion or intimidation.
10. Display of racial bigotry or intolerance.
11. Violation of the Criminal Code of Iowa.
12. Documented case of incorrigible conduct within the RE Program and on the premises.
13. Willful destruction of parish/school property, or personal property of teachers, and/or students.
14. Setting fires or false alarms.
15. Possession of and/or use of tobacco products.
16. Use of the Lord's name in vain, obscene gestures or verbal and gestural vulgarity.
17. Stealing.
18. Public displays of affection.
19. Any type of sexual harassment involving students or teachers (verbal or physical).

Process of Discipline: Areas in which discipline control of students is to be exercised are as follows: Anywhere on parish or school premises or an off-premise site of RE activities. This includes before and after classes. The following possible actions are authorized to be taken in all cases of breach of RE Program discipline regulation:

1. The first infraction of classroom rules will bring on a separation from the rest of the class (i.e. a separate table or room). The teacher will inform the DRE and the DRE will call/e-mail the parent(s) and inform them of the situation.

2. Upon the second infraction, the student will be asked to leave the classroom. A conference with the teacher, DRE, and parents will be required before the student can return to class.
3. Upon the third infraction, the student will be asked to leave the classroom and will be referred to the DRE for dismissal from the RE Program. The student may return to the program the following year, but if he/she did not finish the previous year in another program, or at home, then he/she will not be allowed to progress to the next grade level.

By registering your child in this program, you are agreeing to the discipline actions explained above.

Non-Authorized Persons: A non-authorized person is someone who is on the premises, school or church, without the authorization of the administration or staff. Any intruder who interferes with class procedure will be asked to leave the premises, and if their activities or actions disrupt the discipline and/or scholarly atmosphere, they may be subject to prosecution.

Non-Authorized Persons Are:

1. Non-custodial parent.
2. Student not in the RE Program.
3. Any person suspected of being on the school/parish premises for an unauthorized purpose.

Students are not allowed to bring a friend to class unless with prior permission of the teacher and DRE.

2009 – 2010 Calendar

Aug. 16, 2009	RE BBQ St. Augustin Parish 5:00 p.m.
Sept. 16, 2009	Religious Education Classes Begin 6:45 p.m. School
Sept. 23, 2009	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Sept. 30, 2009	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Oct. 7, 2009	RE Teacher Meeting 6:15 p.m. School Library RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Oct. 14, 2009	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Oct. 21, 2009	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Oct. 28, 2009	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Nov. 4, 2009	RE Teacher Meeting 6:15 p.m. School Library RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Nov. 11, 2009	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Nov. 18, 2009	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Nov. 25, 2009	NO RE Classes – Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 2, 2009	RE Teacher Meeting 6:15 p.m. School Library RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School - Reconciliation Gr. 3-5
Dec. 9, 2009	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School – Reconciliation Grades 6-8
Dec. 16, 2009	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Dec. 23, 2009	NO RE Classes – Christmas Break
Dec. 30, 2009	NO RE Classes – Christmas Break
Jan. 6, 2010	RE Teacher Meeting 6:15 p.m. School Library RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Jan. 12, 2010	First Reconciliation Parent Meeting 7 p.m. Parish Hall
Jan. 13, 2010	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Jan. 14, 2010	First Reconciliation Parent Meeting 7 p.m. Parish Hall
Jan. 20, 2010	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Jan. 26, 2010	First Reconciliation Service 7 p.m. Church
Jan. 27, 2010	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Feb. 3, 2010	RE Teacher Meeting 6:15 p.m. School Library RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Feb. 10, 2010	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Feb. 13, 2010	Confirmation Mass of Dedication 5 p.m.
Feb. 17, 2010	RE ASH WEDNESDAY MASS 7 P.M. CHURCH
Feb. 24, 2010	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Mar. 3, 2010	RE Teacher Meeting 6:15 p.m. School Library RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Mar. 10, 2010	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School – Reconciliation Grades 2-5
Mar. 17, 2010	NO RE Classes – Spring Break

Mar. 24, 2010	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School – Reconciliation Grades 6-8
Mar. 31, 2010	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Apr. 6, 2010	First Communion Parent Meeting 7 p.m. Parish Hall
Apr. 7, 2010	RE Teacher Meeting 6:15 p.m. School Library RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Apr. 8, 2010	First Communion Parent Meeting 7 p.m. Parish Hall
Apr. 14, 2010	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Apr. 17, 2010	First Communion Retreat – 1-5:15 p.m. Mass and Dinner to follow
Apr. 20, 2010	First Communion Church Tour 5-8 p.m.
Apr. 21, 2010	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School
Apr. 22, 2010	First Communion Church Tour 5-8 p.m.
Apr. 28, 2010	RE Classes 6:45 p.m. School - Teacher meeting 8 p.m. Library
Apr. 30, 2010	First Communion Practice 6:30 p.m. Church
May 2, 2010	First Communion Mass 2 p.m. Church
May 5, 2010	RE May Crowning Mass & Ice Cream Social 7 p.m. Church

Religious Education Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

****The easiest route is to come on Grand from the west.****

(If you are coming from the east, please do not turn left onto the school driveway. Go past the school, turn around, and come onto the driveway from the west.)

Dropping Off:

Vehicles should make a line from the west on Grand Ave. to enter the driveway. Stay on the right side of the driveway, as it has two lanes. Follow the driveway to the front of the school, stop and drop off your children at the sidewalk. (Please do not let children walk in the road. Have them exit from the right side of your vehicle and go directly onto the sidewalk in front of the school.) Exit by following the road off of school grounds. **At the end of the driveway, please turn right (east) ONLY onto Grand Ave.**, as traffic will flow better.

Picking Up:

Follow the same directions as above to enter the driveway, but the first vehicle waiting to pick up children should wait (facing north) directly before the entrance to the large parking lot. Other vehicles should form a line directly behind that first vehicle. Your children (with the supervision of their teachers) will wait at the sidewalk in front of the school and will enter your vehicle from the right side. **(We do not want children running in between vehicles.)** You are to wait until the line begins to move to exit the driveway. **Please DO NOT try to maneuver your vehicle around cars in front of you to exit first. Please be patient and wait for the line to exit.** As you exit, please turn right (east) ONLY onto Grand Ave.

CAR POOLING IS EXTREMELY ENCOURAGED! The fewer vehicles involved in this process, the better.

Parking in the large parking lot nearest to Grand Ave. should be kept to a minimum, as entering and exiting the lot through traffic will be extremely difficult.

Curriculum

Grade 1 - 8

The religious education curriculum is sequential, building one year upon the next. Thorough learning at each grade level prevents gaps in learning and fosters successful growth in faith for each person.

The catechetical series Call to Faith (Harcourt, 2005 & 2007) is used in grades one through eight.

This series is unique in that all the units in grades one through six correlate with each other. All grades will have the following themes throughout their units:

Unit One: Revelation Unit Two: Trinity Unit Three: Jesus Christ
Unit Four: The Church Unit Five: Christian Morality Unit Six: The Sacraments
Unit Seven: The Kingdom of God

GRADE ONE

The “lens” through which the Christian message is presented this year is The Trinity. The children are encouraged to learn about God and to grow in their relationship with the Holy Trinity. Here is how the seven key areas of catechesis will be presented through the lens of The Trinity this year:

In the Revelation Unit, children learn that God made all things. God made each one of us, and wants us to come to know and love him. God shares with us his creative work by entrusting all creation to our care.

In the Trinity Unit, the children are introduced to the Holy Trinity. They see that God cares for us as a loving parent. They come to understand Jesus as the Son of God. They get to know Jesus’ human family. They see that Jesus used stories and actions to teach us about God, his Father in heaven. And they learn that the Holy Spirit, God’s love in action, is present with us to help and guide us.

In the Jesus Christ Unit, the children will deepen their understanding of Jesus as the Son of God. They learn that Jesus is both divine and human. They learn that we are to love God above all else and love others as we love ourselves. And they learn that Jesus gave his life so that we could have new life forever with God.

In the The Church Unit, the children learn about the Church as the community of God’s people. They see that it is the work of each member of the Church to invite everyone into God’s kingdom. They learn that the Holy Spirit fills people’s hearts with love and guides the Church.

In the Morality Unit, the children see that God gives us rules for living a life of love. They come to understand that Jesus’ words and actions teach us how to love and serve God. They see that God always offers us forgiveness when we are truly sorry.

In the Sacraments Unit, the children are introduced to the sacraments as signs and celebrations of God’s loving presence. They study the Sacrament of Baptism in some detail and explore the Mass as our celebration of God’s saving love.

The last Unit ***The Kingdom of God***, helps the children see that we are called to be happy with God forever. They come to understand more about the everlasting life promised to us by God and to look forward with joyful hope to the coming of the kingdom of God in fullness.

GRADE TWO

The “lens” through which the Christian message is presented this year is ***Jesus Christ***. Here is how the seven key areas of catechesis will be presented through the lens of ***Jesus Christ*** this year:

In the ***Revelation*** Unit, the children learn about Jesus, the Son of God become human to save us from the power of sin and everlasting death. They see how Jesus used the signs of God’s love in creation to call all people to holiness. They learn that the Bible is God’s word inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by humans.

In the ***Trinity*** Unit, the children come to know the Holy Trinity as revealed in the teachings and witness of Jesus. They see how the Church celebrates the mystery of the Holy Trinity in Baptism.

In the ***Jesus Christ*** Unit, the children see how Jesus called us to follow him, using stories and signs to show us about God’s love. In Jesus’ actions of feeding and forgiving, the children come to understand the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.

In ***The Church*** Unit, the children learn that Sacraments are holy signs that come from Jesus and give grace. They learn we receive God’s forgiveness in Reconciliation and that they Church year celebrates the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

In the ***Morality*** Unit, the children explore the law of love that Jesus gave us. They learn that everyone is welcome in God’s kingdom and the Catholic Church. Followers of Jesus are to proclaim His good news to the world.

In the ***Sacraments*** Unit, the children see that Jesus gave us the sacraments as signs of God’s life and love. They explore the Sacraments of Initiation, with special attention to proximate preparation for First Eucharist.

In the final Unit on ***The Kingdom of God***, the children learn that Jesus will come again, to bring the kingdom of God in its fullness. They learn that the Church’s mission is to share Jesus’ message of love and to spread the news of the kingdom of God.

GRADE THREE

The “lens” through which the Christian message is presented this year is ***The Church***. Third graders are especially open to exploring their faith as members of a community. Here is how the seven key areas of catechesis will be presented through the lens of ***The Church*** this year:

In the ***Revelation*** Unit, the students learn that God created people to be in community with him and with one another. They identify themselves as members of the Church. They learn that the Church is the People of God gathered in the name of Jesus and that God created humans in His image and likeness.

In the ***Trinity*** Unit, the students see the Trinity as the model for Christian community. They see how members of the Church express their faith in God through prayer, worship, and the sacraments.

In the ***Jesus Christ*** Unit, the students learn about Jesus’ mission to invite all people into God’s kingdom of justice, love, and peace. They see how Jesus commissioned his followers, the Church, to carry out his work in the world.

In *The Church* Unit, the students explore the Church as both community and institution. They see that all members of the Church have a share in the Church's ministry according to their state of life. The students learn that the bishops are the successors of the Apostles and the Holy Spirit unites the Church and makes its members holy.

In the *Morality* Unit, the students see that Jesus gave his followers the law of love. They learn to look to the Church for moral guidance as they grow in the virtues of faith, hope, and love. They learn that the Holy Spirit and the teachings of the Church help us make good choices.

In the *Sacraments* Unit, the students explore the sacramental nature of the Church. Each of the seven sacraments is presented in detail so that the students can grow in their understanding of and participation in the Church's sacramental life.

The final Unit on *The Kingdom of God*, helps the students come to understand the Church as a sign of God's covenant and a sign of the kingdom of God. They learn that at the end of the world, Christ will judge all people on the way they lived their lives.

GRADE FOUR

The "lens" through which the Christian message is presented this year is *Christian Morality*. Fourth graders are drawn to models of living provided by Jesus, the saints, and other members of the Christian community. Here is how the seven key areas of catechesis will be presented through the lens of *Christian Morality* this year:

In the *Revelation* Unit, the students explore God's creation. They learn that God loves and cares for all creation and has a plan for the world. All God wants us to know about Him is in Scripture and Tradition.

In the *Trinity* Unit, the students come to know that every person is worthy of respect because he or she is created in God's image. Each person has a soul that will live forever. God created people for one another, and all must work for the common good. Such love of neighbor reflects the love of the Holy Trinity.

In the *Jesus Christ* Unit, the students see that Jesus, the Son of God, shows us how to live in loving relationship with God and with one another. They recall Jesus' law of love. They explore the Beatitudes, Jesus' teachings on the kingdom of God and how to live in it. And they see that Jesus brought us forgiveness of sin.

In *The Church* Unit, the students see that every person is called by God to a vocation. Through our vocation, we can help God increase His reign. Jesus gave the leaders of the Church the authority to interpret Scripture and Tradition for the faithful. The Holy Spirit directs the Church in teaching and guiding the People of God.

In the *Morality* Unit, the students come to understand that God created humans to live in strong, loving families. The students explore the Ten Commandments in detail as a foundation for morality.

In the *Sacraments* Unit, the students see the sacraments as signs and celebrations of God's presence. They study the Church year and the seasons of the liturgical year. They explore the seven Sacraments and come to know them as signs, instituted by Christ, that give grace.

The final Unit on *The Kingdom of God* helps the students learn about the eschatological dimension of Christian morality, looking forward to the coming of the kingdom of God in fullness. They see that moral choices made now have consequences for all eternity, and come to understand that we are judged by how we love.

GRADE FIVE

The “lens” through which the Christian message is presented this year is ***The Sacraments***. Focusing on the sacramental experiences of ritual and symbol and the centrality of the Paschal mystery is a great way to touch the religious imagination of young people. Here is how the seven key areas of catechesis will be presented through the lens of ***The Sacraments*** this year:

In the ***Revelation*** Unit, the students explore God’s revelation in the natural signs of creation and see how the gifts of creation are used in the Church’s sacramental life. They come to know that true happiness can come only through communion with God and that religion expresses relationship with God through beliefs, prayer, and practices.

In the ***Trinity*** Unit, the students come to understand the Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. They learn about the virtues and that when we pray and worship, God fills us with joy, strength, and hope.

In the ***Jesus Christ*** Unit, the students encounter Jesus as the Incarnation of the Son of God becoming a human being. Through the sacraments, Christ unites his followers to his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

In ***The Church*** Unit, the students come to learn that as members of the Church, we are all united in living out the mission of Christ. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the pope and the bishops continue the Apostles’ mission to teach.

In the ***Morality*** Unit, the students understand that evil is the result of humans’ turning away from God’s goodness and that God sent His Son to redeem people from the power of sin and evil. They learn about the process of becoming Catholic through the Sacraments of Initiation and receiving God’s forgiveness through the Sacraments of Healing.

In the ***Sacraments*** Unit, the students focus on an in-depth presentation of the Eucharist, our great sacrament. They explore the Eucharist as the source and the summit of the Catholic Church. They learn that the word of God is conveyed through Scripture and Tradition and that Jesus is truly present in the word as it is proclaimed and preached in the liturgy.

In the final Unit on ***The Kingdom of God***, the students learn the Sacraments of Service (Holy Orders and Matrimony) and that the vocations of ordained and married people build the reign of God and serve others.

GRADE SIX

The “lens” through which the Christian message is presented this year is ***The Kingdom of God***. Sixth graders are fascinated by roots and origins and can learn to read the Scriptures as the love story of God and humans, from creation to the coming of the kingdom in fullness. Here is how the seven key areas of catechesis will be presented through the lens of ***The Kingdom of God*** this year:

In the ***Revelation*** Unit, the students explore the beginnings of humanity’s journey of faith. They come to know that God reveals himself and his plan of salvation through Scripture and that the most important truth of both Sacred Scripture and Tradition is that God is faithful and wants to live with us forever.

In the *Trinity* Unit, the students learn that God calls us on a journey of faith toward salvation and that path of salvation is paved with prayer. They examine the Ten Commandments as a sign of God's covenant of love.

In the *Jesus Christ* Unit, the students see Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the Old Testament roles of priest, prophet, and king. They learn more about the history of salvation as it is lived out in the stories of the judges, David, Solomon, and the prophets. They turn to the biblical wisdom literature for inspiration and guidance, seeing in it a reflection of Jesus, the personification of God's Wisdom.

In *The Church* Unit, the students see that Jesus laid the foundation for the Church through his life and teachings. He sent the Holy Spirit to help the Church fulfill its mission. The students explore the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

In the *Morality* Unit, the students come to understand that the Great Commandment allows us to achieve happiness and holiness. They learn that the Beatitudes and precepts of the Church help the faithful live holy lives. They learn that our conscience helps us know when we have sinned and that through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives sins and restores us to his friendship.

In the *Sacraments* Unit, the students look closely at the Sacraments of Service, beginning with Baptism as the source of all vocations to serve God's people. The students then explore Holy Orders and Matrimony. They explore how both ordained ministry and the Christian family contribute to the community's journey of salvation.

In the final Unit on *The Kingdom of God*, the students understand the communion of saints and Christ's desire for the unity of all his disciples.

GRADE SEVEN

In the *Revelation* Unit, the students explore the creation of the heavens and the earth, the making of human in God's image and likeness, and how God reveals himself to us through the Scriptures and Jesus Christ.

In the *Trinity* Unit, the students learn that the Trinity is a mystery, never totally understood by the mind, yet approached through faith. The love that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have for each other is a model for us. They will learn that the Holy Spirit gives the Church life and energy and unites us as the Body of Christ.

In the *Jesus Christ* Unit, the students see Jesus Christ as the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, at once fully human and fully divine and that Jesus became human to show us how to live and reach our full potential as God's children. Jesus conquered death and makes it possible for those who have faith to experience new life.

In *The Church* Unit, the students see that Jesus sent his disciples into the world and asks us to work together to spread his message. They will learn that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ and that we are all united with one another as part of Christ's Body to help build God's kingdom.

In the *Morality* Unit, the students come to understand that God made us with a free will, an intellect, and a soul, all of which help us choose to do good. They will learn that all people possess the human dignity that comes from being made in God's image and that we are to honor and protect the human dignity of all people from conception to death.

In the *Sacraments* Unit, the students come to understand that Christ makes the Father known to us and makes it possible for us to share in his life. They will review the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick

In the final Unit on *The Kingdom of God*, the students understand that we discern our vocation with the help of family, the Church, and prayer. They will learn that God's kingdom is present but not yet complete and that Jesus will come at the end of time to judge the living and the dead, and the kingdom will be complete.

GRADE EIGHT

In the *Revelation* Unit, the students explore the fact that humans can live in friendship with God because we have a soul, reason, and free will. They will learn that God established a covenant with his people, promising to be faithful to them and to be their God and that the Ten Commandments guide us in what it means to be and live in God's image.

In the *Trinity* Unit, the students learn that the Transfiguration revealed Jesus' divine glory as the Son of God and the gift of grace helps us to know and love God. Through our baptism we share in Jesus' mission as priest, prophet, and king. The gifts of the Holy Spirit help us live our Christian witness and the Holy Spirit lives in the Church, uniting, guiding, and giving her life.

In the *Jesus Christ* Unit, the students see that the first disciples worshiped together, followed Jesus' teachings, and cared for one another and that Jesus offers eternal life to those who believe.

In *The Church* Unit, the students see that the bishops are direct successors of the Apostles, and the pope is the direct successor of Peter and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church continues to teach the truth of Christ. The pope and bishops belong to the Church's hierarchy, and guide the priests, deacons, religious communities, and the lay faithful. The laity bring the truth of God's kingdom to the world in which they live and work.

In the *Morality* Unit, the students come to understand that we are called to put God first in our lives, to trust and hope in him. They will learn that the Church works to insure that public and political authorities act with truth, justice, freedom, and solidarity for all people.

In the *Sacraments* Unit, the students focus on the Sacraments of Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Eucharist. They will also come to understand the liturgical year connects our lives more closely to the Paschal mystery of Jesus.

In the final Unit on *The Kingdom of God*, the students understand that sacramentals are holy objects, prayers, and practices that help us respond to God's grace. They will learn that the Church is a communion of saints uniting believers in heaven, in purgatory, and on earth.

Grade eight will be using the **Confirmed in the Spirit** series from Loyola University Press, Copyright 1990.

Confirmed in the Spirit

The theme of *Confirmed in the Spirit* is renewal in the Spirit. The goal is the growth of the faith life within the students through the awareness of the special strength they receive in Confirmation to live the Christ-life, to witness to Christ and to participate more fully in the Eucharist. To achieve this goal, *Confirmed in the Spirit* has the following objectives.

The students should **develop more deeply these attitudes**:

- belief in the Spirit within them and in the Church.
- love for God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and for all God's people.
- trust in the Spirit, who enables them to grow in faith throughout life.
- valuing of the gifts of the Spirit, which are for personal holiness and service of the Christian community.
- acceptance of the Christian principles described in the Beatitudes.
- appreciation of the fruits of the Spirit as signs of his presence.

The students should **grow in knowledge and understanding** of the main truths of faith, but especially of these:

- The Spirit descended upon Jesus at his baptism, the solemn beginning of his public ministry.
- The Spirit descended upon the apostles at Pentecost, forming the first Christian community, and he remains with the Church forever.
- In Confirmation, the Christian renews his or her baptismal commitment personally and become more intimately bound to the community and more obliged to spread and defend the faith.
- Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation which celebrates the active presence of the Spirit in the life of the individual Christian and in the life of the Christian community as a whole.
- Confirmation leads the Christian to fuller participation in the Eucharist, the sacrament that celebrates and effects the unity of the Church.

The students should **increasingly respond** in these ways:

- acknowledge their need for the strength provided by the Spirit in Confirmation.
- desire to renew their baptismal promises and to grow in their knowledge of the faith and in the faith life.
- resolve to cooperate with the gifts of the Spirit in order to deepen their relationship with God, to spread and defend the faith, to live the spirit of the Beatitudes, and to serve others through the works of mercy.
- accept the support of their pastors, parents, sponsors, and faith community and support them in return.
- strive to grow in the spiritual life by reading Scripture, praying, journaling, and participating more fully in the Eucharist and other sacraments.
- desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, to willingly participate in the preparations for it, and to meet all the requirements.

**POUR OUT
YOUR
SPIRIT**  ©LPI

Common Prayers

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Your name;
Your kingdom come;
Your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord
is with you! Blessed are you
among women, and blessed is the
fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray
for us sinners, now and at the
hour of our death. Amen.

Prayers from the Mass

The Confiteor

I confess to Almighty God, and to
you, my brothers and sisters, that I
have sinned through my own fault
in my thoughts and in my words, in
what I have done and in what I
have failed to do. And I ask Blessed
Mary, ever Virgin, all the angels and
saints, and you, my brothers and
sisters, to pray for me to the Lord
our God.

Trinity Prayer

Glory to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is
now, and will be forever. Amen.

Blessing Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these Your
gifts which we are about to
receive from Your goodness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Thanksgiving after Meals

We give You thanks for all Your
gifts, Almighty God, living and
reigning now and forever. Amen.

The Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, grant us peace.

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Other Prayers and Devotions

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray,
O Lord, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Act of Faith

Lord God, I believe that You are God in three Persons. I believe that You are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that a new life opened for me through the death and resurrection of Your Son and that Your love and guidance continue through Your Holy Spirit. I believe in the truths taught by Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. By responding in love to Your gifts, I believe that I shall share in eternal joy with You. This is my belief, Lord God, and my belief is my joy. Amen.

Act of Hope

Lord God, trusting in Your deep love and goodness, I hope to receive continued forgiveness for my faults and Your guidance and help in avoiding sin. My hope for eternal life and joy with You fills me with joy and love each day I live. Amen.

Act of Love

Lord God, You continually share Your great love with me through the gifts in my life. In an attempt to imitate Your great goodness and show my love in return, I will strive to love You with all my heart, all my mind, and all my strength, and I will seek to love my neighbor as myself. Lord, teach me to love even more. Amen.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, one pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Examination of Conscience

- How did I show my love for God and others?
- Did I usually say my daily prayers?
- Did I obey my parents?
- Did I show respect for my teachers?
- Did I think of others - my parents, brothers and sisters, friends?
Was I mean to them?
- Was I kind and fair in the way I played and worked?
- Was I generous?
- Did I share my things with others?
- Did I care for my things and the things of others?
- Was I angry and unforgiving?
- Did I hurt others by telling lies or by stealing or by calling them names?
- Did I worship God by going to Mass and taking part in the celebration?

Celebrating Reconciliation

Individual Rite of Reconciliation

1. The priest welcomes us and prays that God the Father will forgive us and help us grow.
2. The priest may read from the Word of God. We think about how we have followed God's Word and Jesus' Law of Love.
3. We tell the priest our sins.
4. We listen as the priest tells us how we can better live Jesus' Law of Love. The priest gives us a penance, an act that will help us show that we want to change our lives.
5. We pray a prayer of sorrow, an Act of Contrition.

6. The priest extends his hands over our head and prays the words of forgiveness: "I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We say: "Amen."
7. We praise God for always being ready to forgive us. The priest tells us to go in peace.

Communal Rite of Reconciliation

1. Greeting
2. Reading from Scripture
3. Homily
4. Examination of conscience with Litany of Contrition and the Lord's Prayer
5. Individual confession and absolution
6. Closing Prayer

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am sorry for my sins. In choosing to sin, and failing to do good, I have sinned against you and your Church. I firmly intend, with the help of your Son, to do penance and to sin no more.

Rules the Church Lives By

The Ten Commandments

Deuteronomy 5: 6-21

1. I am the Lord, your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Beatitudes

Happy are those who trust in God.
Happy are those who comfort the lonely and the sad.

Happy are those who are gentle and kind.

Happy are those who pray often.
Happy are those who treat others fairly.

Happy are those who forgive and forget.

Happy are those who love God.
Happy are those who are joyful.
Happy are those who live in peace.

--adapted from Matthew 5: 3-12

1. *God blesses those people who depend only on him. They belong to the kingdom of heaven.*
2. *God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort.*
3. *God blesses those people who are humble. The earth will belong to them.*
4. *God blesses those people who want to obey God more than to eat or drink. They will be given what they want.*
5. *God blesses those people who are merciful. They will be treated with mercy.*
6. *God blesses those people whose hearts are pure. They shall see God.*
7. *God blesses those people who make peace. They will be called God's children.*
8. *God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right. They belong to the kingdom of heaven.*

-- Matthew 5: 3-12

The Law of Love

Luke 10:25-28 & Mark 12:28-31

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

The Laws of the Church

1. To keep Sundays holy; and to participate in Mass on Sunday and holy days of obligation.
2. To lead a sacramental life, frequently receiving the Eucharist.
3. To prepare for Confirmation and to be confirmed.
4. To observe the marriage laws of the Church and to provide children with religious training.
5. To strengthen and support the Church.
6. To do penance, including abstaining from meat and fasting from food on appointed days.
7. To join in the missionary spirit and works of the Church.

Holy Days of Obligation

The holy days of obligation observed in the United States are:

1. Christmas (December 25)
2. The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (January 1)
3. Ascension Thursday (fortieth day after Easter)
4. The Assumption of Mary (August 15)
5. All Saints' Day (November 1)
6. The Immaculate Conception (December 8)

Eucharistic Fast

No food or liquid (except water) is to be taken one hour before receiving Holy Communion.

Days of Penance

Catholic are obliged, each in his or her own way, to do penance. However, so that Catholics may be joined in a common practice of penance, days of penance are appointed. On those days, Catholics are to pray, do works of piety and charity, and deny themselves by fulfilling more faithfully their obligations and by observing the fast and abstinence described here:

--Abstinence from meat is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent.

--Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The law of fasting binds those between the ages of 21 and 59.

Further Information

Gifts of the Spirit

Wisdom: The ability to recognize good and know and appreciate what is really of value.

Understanding: The gift of being aware of how and where the Holy Spirit works within us and within the Church; helps us be sensitive to the needs of others.

Counsel (right judgment): The gift to make good decisions and to help others make good decisions.

Fortitude (courage): The gift of strength of character so that we can live by Christian principles, even when that is difficult.

Knowledge: The gift to use wisely the intelligence God has given us and to use our gifts and talents to the fullest.

Piety (love): The gift to be sensitive to God and to the love and holiness God offers us through Jesus and the Christian community.

Fear of the Lord (reverence): The gift of reverence or being in awe of God and adoring God in prayer and liturgy.

Fruits of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

Love	Goodness
Joy	Trustfulness
Peace	Gentleness
Patience	Self-control
Kindness	

Theological Virtues

Faith, Hope and Love

Cardinal or Moral Virtues

Prudence
Justice
Fortitude
Temperance

The Sacraments

Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism
Confirmation
Eucharist

Sacraments of Healing

Reconciliation
Anointing of the Sick

Sacraments of Vocation and Service

Matrimony
Holy Orders

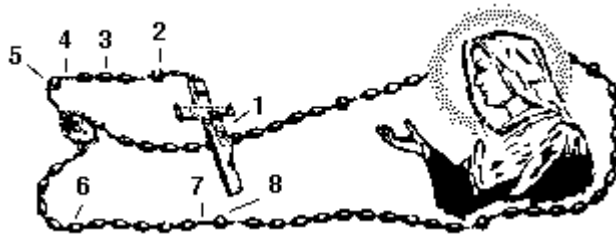
Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the Hungry.
Give drink to the thirsty.
Clothe the naked.
Visit the imprisoned.
Shelter the homeless.
Visit the sick.
Bury the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Counsel the doubtful.
Instruct the ignorant.
Admonish the sinner.
Comfort the sorrowful.
Forgive injuries.
Bear wrongs patiently.
Pray for the living and the dead.

The Rosary



1. Make the **Sign of the Cross** and say the ["Apostles' Creed."](#)
2. Say the ["Our Father."](#)
3. Say three ["Hail Marys."](#)
4. Say the ["Glory be to the Father."](#)
5. Announce the First Mystery; then say the ["Our Father."](#)
6. Say ten ["Hail Marys,"](#) while meditating on the Mystery.
7. Say the ["Glory be to the Father."](#)
8. Announce the Second Mystery; then say the ["Our Father."](#) Repeat 6 and 7 and continue with Third, Fourth and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.

The Joyful Mysteries

1. The annunciation
2. The visitation
3. The birth of Jesus
4. The presentation in the Temple
5. Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple

The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The agony in the garden
2. The scourging of Jesus
3. The crowning with thorns
4. Jesus carries his cross
5. Jesus dies on the cross

The Glorious Mysteries

1. The resurrection
2. The ascension
3. The Holy Spirit is sent upon the apostles
4. The assumption of Mary
5. Mary is crowned queen of heaven and earth.

The Luminous Mysteries

1. The baptism of Jesus
2. The wedding at Cana
3. The proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The institution of the Eucharist

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy; hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To you we cry, the children of Eve, to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Stations of the Cross

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death.

Second Station: Jesus is made to carry his cross.

Third Station: Jesus falls the first time.

Fourth Station: Jesus meets Mary, his mother.

Fifth Station: Simon, the Cyrenian, helps Jesus carry his cross.

Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time.

Eighth Station: Jesus speaks to the daughters of Jerusalem.

Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time.

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments.

Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross.

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross.

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb.