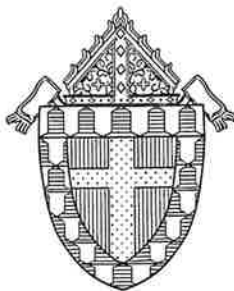


Diocese of Lafayette



Curriculum for Preparation for Eighth Grade Confirmation

The following curriculum is approved for Priests, Deacons, Directors of Religious Education, and Confirmation Coordinators who are involved in catechetical formation and for *confirmandi* (confirmants) for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the eighth (8th) grade. This curriculum is not intended to be covered in a one (1) year cycle of preparation for reception of the Sacrament, but rather cumulatively over the entirety of time a child enters catechetical formation in first (1st) grade in a parish school of religion program (CCD) and continues through his or her eighth (8th) consecutive year of formation.

Although there is some overlap between this curriculum and the Grade Level Expectations, these are required prayers and topics of formation in which all *confirmandi* are to be formed before they are presented to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in eighth (8th) grade.

I. Basic Prayers:

a. Sign of the Cross –

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

b. Our Father –

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy 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.

c. Hail Mary –

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

d. Glory Be –

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

e. Act of Contrition –

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

f. **Apostles Creed –**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

g. **How to pray the Rosary –**

- i. Know the prayers corresponding to different beads of the rosary.
- ii. Begin the rosary with the Sign of the Cross.
- iii. Recite the Apostle's Creed.
- iv. Pray one Our Father, three Hail Mary's and one Glory Be.
- v. To know and announce each mystery (Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, and Glorious).
- vi. Pray an Our Father on the large/single bead.
- vii. Pray each decade of Hail Mary's on the smaller/closer beads while meditating on the corresponding mystery.
- viii. Close each decade by praying a Glory Be (and the O My Jesus Prayer/Fatima Prayer).
- ix. Pray the Hail, Holy Queen as the last prayer of the rosary along with the Sign of the Cross.

h. **Acts of Faith, Hope and Love (Charity) –**

i. **Act of Faith –**

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

ii. **Act of Hope –**

O Lord God, I hope by your grace for the pardon of all my sins and after life here to gain eternal happiness because you have promised it who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind, and merciful. In this hope I intend to live and die. Amen.

iii. **Act of Love (Charity) –**

O Lord God, I love you above all things and I love my neighbor for your sake because you are the highest, infinite and perfect good, worthy of all my love. In this love I intend to live and die. Amen.

II. **The Seven Sacraments –** Signs instituted by Christ through which graces of the Holy Spirit are communicated to us. (Name of each, definition, and how to receive each)

a. **Sacraments of Initiation:** (Baptism and Confirmation imprint upon the soul a certain spiritual and indelible mark or character and cannot be repeated.)

Baptism is the sacrament of rebirth through which we are freed from sin, become children of God, and are welcomed into the Body of Christ, the Church.

Confirmation is the sacrament that strengthens the grace of Baptism, celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and empowers us to profess, live, and spread the faith by being soldiers for Christ.

Eucharist is the sacrament that makes present Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and invites us to share the Lord's Supper as we receive his Body and Blood under the appearances of bread and wine.

b. **Sacraments of Healing:**

Penance is the sacrament that celebrates God's forgiveness of sins by way of a contrite heart, the confession of sin, and absolution from the priest.

Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament in which Jesus Christ, through the anointing with sacred oil and prayers of the priest, offers forgiveness of sins to the seriously ill, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of Penance; gives peace and courage to endure suffering, and can even restore one's health, when it is conducive to the salvation of one's soul.

c. **Sacraments of Service:**

Matrimony is the sacrament in which a baptized man and a baptized woman commit to a faithful union of life, love, and sanctification of one another through an openness to the procreation of new life that is nurtured within the sacramental life of the Church. This sacrament is properly fulfilled within a liturgical celebration in the presence of a priest or a deacon. The husband and wife enter this sacrament with freedom of choice, faithfulness to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children in the faith.

Holy Orders is the sacrament in which baptized men are ordained as bishops, priests, or deacons to serve the Church in the name of Jesus Christ. (Imprints upon the soul a certain spiritual and indelible mark or character and cannot be repeated.)

d. **Preparation needed for each Sacrament**

Must be made before receiving the Sacraments in order to obtain the graces they convey. Infant baptism, within the first weeks after birth, is the only case in which no previous preparation is necessary for the Candidate to receive the Sacrament. Anyone who approaches the Sacraments after the age of reason without due change of heart, or in a state of mortal sin commits a grave sin of sacrilege and will not obtain the graces of the Holy Spirit until the obstacle to grace is removed.

e. **Eligibility for each Sacrament –**

Two indispensable conditions the Church requires for those who approach the Sacraments. They must be qualified and desiring of their free will to receive them.

III. **The Sacrifice of the Mass and the Holy Eucharist**

- a. **Definition** – The Eucharist is a re-presentation of the once and for all sacrifice of Christ on the cross to reconcile mankind with God and for the forgiveness of the sins in which the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ is substantially presented, offered, and received – under the appearance of bread and wine (see John 6:54 – necessary for eternal life).

- b. **Fruits of the Eucharist** – Holy Communion increases our union with Christ and with his Church. It preserves and renews the life of grace received at Baptism and Confirmation and makes us grow in love for our neighbor. It strengthens us in charity, wipes away venial sins and preserves us from mortal sin in the future.

- c. **What is required to receive the Eucharist worthily?** One must be in the state of grace, not conscious of being in mortal sin, a spirit of recollection and prayer, and observance of a one hour fast.
- d. **Sacrilege**—receiving the Holy Eucharist in a state of mortal sin (see 1 Corinthians 11:23-32) and the lack reverence for the Holy Eucharist (gestures and dress).
- e. **Transubstantiation**—by the words of Jesus during the Last Supper (This is my body... This is my blood) the priest consecrates bread and wine into the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ which is also known as the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.
- f. **Days when we are obliged to assist at Mass** – Every Sunday and all Holy Days of Obligation
- g. **Main Parts of the Mass:** Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist

IV. The Ten Commandments

a. Mortal, Venial, and Original Sin

Original sin--state of deprivation of original holiness and justice (not by choice) in which human beings are born.

Mortal sin—is sin in which there is grave matter, full knowledge, and deliberate consent. This sin destroys charity, deprives us of sanctifying grace, and, if not repented, leads us to the eternal death of hell. Mortal sins are ordinarily forgiven by Baptism and Confession.

Venial sin—lesser sins which do not break the covenant with God but weakens the soul and can lead to mortal sin

b. What are the Ten Commandments? (Ex. 20:1-17)

- I. I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.
- II. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- III. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
- IV. Honor your father and your mother.
- IV. You shall not kill.
- V. You shall not commit adultery.
- VI. You shall not steal.
- VII. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- IX. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
- X. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

c. *Confirmandi* should know what each Commandment requires and forbids (see Part Four of either the *Catechism* or the *Compendium of the Catechism*)

V. The Precepts of the Church

- 1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and remain free from work or activity that could impede the sanctification of such days.
- 2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
- 3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
- 4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
- 5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

VI. Fast and Abstinence

- a. **Fast**—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence required for persons from age eighteen (18) to fifty-nine (59). When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals (snacks) that together are not equal to a full meal.


- b. **Abstinence**—refraining from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent, required from age fourteen (14) onwards.
- Those who are younger or older are encouraged to participate and may freely embrace these disciplines. However, these disciplines should never endanger one's health.

VII. Articles of Apostles' Creed


- a. **Most Holy Trinity—the three Persons of the one God**
- b. **God the Father, Supreme Being and Creator of the Universe**
- c. **Jesus Christ the Son of God and Our Lord**
- i. The Incarnation
 - ii. Two natures, God and man
 - iii. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary
 - iv. Suffered, was crucified, died and was buried for the redemption of the world for our sins
 - v. He rose from the dead in a new and glorified body
 - vi. His ascension, body and soul, into heaven
 - vii. Will judge each person at the time of death and the whole world at his return in glory (Difference between particular and final judgement)
- d. **The Holy Spirit**
- i. Third person of the Blessed Trinity
 - ii. With the Father and the Son is one God
 - iii. Gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and the Church
 - iv. Pentecost
- e. **The Catholic Church – Basic Ecclesiology**
- i. Founded by Jesus Christ
 - ii. Is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic (four marks of the Church)
 - iii. St. Peter, the first head of the Church, Pope
 - iv. Pope and bishops are successors of St. Peter and the Apostles
 - v. Catholic Church remains and will remain the institution of salvation founded by Christ, until the end of the world (indefectible).
 - vi. Distinction between the human component and divine component.
- f. **The forgiveness of sin and our own resurrection to everlasting life**

VIII. Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

- a. Community Service (some work of charity or volunteering in the parish)
- b. Confirmation Retreat
- c. Sacrament of Confession sometime before (preferably near) Confirmation

Approved: 
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Date: February 28, 2023


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