



FAITH FORMATION LEARNING OBJECTIVES GRADES 1-8

Grade 1: God is Love

First grade students begin to develop an awareness of God as our Father in Heaven, the creator of Heaven and earth, who is all good, who created them in His image and likeness, and who loves them unconditionally. Special emphasis is placed on growing to know, love, and trust God.

Key Concepts:

- Learn the Sign of the Cross
- Learn the Lord's Prayer
- Learn Hail Mary
- Understand Who God is
- Basics of Prayer as a Conversation with God
- Introduction to the Meaning of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Grade 2: Our Life in Jesus

Second grade students focus on how much children are loved by Jesus Christ, and how His death and Resurrection has opened the way to Heaven.

Key Concepts:

- Parts of the Mass
- Review of Basic Prayers
- More Ways to Pray
- Prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Prepare for the Sacrament of the Eucharist/ First Communion

Grade 3: The Kingdom of God and the Church

Third grade students learn about the Catholic Church, the Holy Spirit and how He guides the church, and how Jesus continues His mission through the Catholic Church.

Key Concepts:

- Basics of the Holy Trinity and Seven Sacraments
- Prayer and Living as Children of God
- Apostles' Creed
- Kingdom of God
- Mary as the Mother of the Church
- Make Good Moral Choices

Grade 4: Jesus Teaches Us How to Live

Fourth grade students will focus on moral life. They will see how Jesus teaches us to love God and others by following the Ten Commandments and living the Beatitudes. They will be reminded that no matter what we do, God will always forgive us if we are truly sorry and ask his forgiveness.

Key Concepts:

- Formation of Conscience
- Ten Commandments
- The Beatitudes
- The Golden Rule
- The Great Commandment

Grade 5: The Sacraments

Fifth grade students will further their understanding of the Sacraments and how they are celebrated. They will learn the ways the grace of the Sacraments deepen our relationship with Christ and strengthen us to follow him. They will grow in their understanding of the Son of God, sent to bring salvation and new life; as well as the Church's role in salvation and the Holy Spirit who unites the Church in Jesus.

Key Concepts:

- God's Grace in the Sacraments
- Marks of the Church (one, holy, Catholic, apostolic)
- Sins and Forgiveness
- Old and New Testament
- Mass and the Eucharist

Grade 6: The Word of God in the Old Testament

Sixth grade students will concentrate on the history of God's relationship with his people and the salvation that he has offered over the ages. They will be reminded that God has always been faithful and true to his people and will learn more about God's Kingdom.

Key Concepts:

- History of Salvation
- God Guides Our Faith Journey Through Prayer, Scripture, Sacraments and the Church
- Explore the Bible (Old and New Testament, Gospels, Epistles)
- Learn and Understand the Apostles' Creed
- Learn and Understand the Nicene Creed
- Introduce Life of Service to Help Build Unity Among His Believers

Grade 7: Jesus Christ and Sacraments

Learning Objective 1: Jesus Christ

Students will discover more about their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church. As a disciple of Christ, individuals' relationships with Jesus and the Church are part of their life every day. Our faith is connected to who we are and therefore to everything we do.

Key Concepts:

- Because he is true God and true man, Jesus Christ is "the way" to the Father.
- Jesus gave specific directions for living, honoring God, and making our actions reflect our beliefs.
- Jesus offers eternal life to those who accept God's grace and follow Jesus, our model of holiness in faith.
- The Church exists to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. All baptized Catholics are called to serve the mission of the Church; for lay persons that is to serve others in Christ's name.

Learning Objective 2: Sacraments

Seventh graders will discover more about the ways the sacraments strengthen our bond to Christ and our relationships to all those in the body of Christ. As a disciple of Christ, the Holy Spirit helps us to receive and live out the grace of the sacraments. The Eucharist is at the heart of what it means to be Catholic. Participation in Sunday Mass and our own regular personal prayer help us live the life of Christ.

Key Concepts:

- Jesus is really and truly with us in the Eucharist (body, blood, soul, and divinity), which is called Real Presence.
- Our spiritual life (God's grace in us, the celebration of the liturgy, and our participation in the seven sacraments) strengthens our moral life.
- Study the sacraments of initiation (baptism, eucharist, confirmation), healing (penance and reconciliation, anointing of the sick), matrimony, and holy orders.
- Learn how the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery through a yearly cycle of seasons and feasts, called the liturgical calendar, which connects us more deeply with Jesus.

Grade 8: Jesus Christ and the Trinity

Learning Objective 1: Jesus Christ

Students will discover more about their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church. As a disciple of Christ, individuals' relationships with Jesus and the Church are part of their life every day. Our faith is connected to who we are and therefore to everything we do.

Key Concepts:

- Because he is true God and true man, Jesus Christ is "the way" to the Father.
- Jesus gave specific directions for living, honoring God, and making our actions reflect our beliefs.
- Jesus offers eternal life to those who accept God's grace and follow Jesus, our model of holiness in faith.
- The Church exists to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. All baptized Catholics are called to serve the mission of the Church; for lay persons that is to serve others in Christ's name.

Learning Objective 2: Trinity

Eighth graders will discover more about the mystery of the Holy Trinity and the ways Father, Son and Spirit are present in the Church, her sacraments, and our lives. Through their baptism, individuals share in the very life and love that is the trinity.

Key Concepts:

- God the Father sent his Son and the Holy Spirit to help us know him and guide us to him.
- Mary's trust and discipleship serves as a model for our own journey of faith.
- Natural moral law and God's revealed law in the Ten Commandments directs us to live in right relationship with him and with one another.
- The Church is both a visible, structured organization and the Mystical Body of Christ, in which the Holy Spirit lives uniting the Church, guiding her, and giving us life.