

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM CONCEPTS

Grade 7

By the end of Grade 7, students will have an age-appropriate understanding of the concepts in each of the following areas:

Area #1: ***The Profession of Faith*** (CCC #26-1065)

1. Through an utterly free decision, **God** has revealed himself and given himself to humanity (CCC# 50)
2. **God** has revealed his plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all humanity. This plan has been fully revealed by God's sending his Son, **Jesus**, and the **Holy Spirit** (CCC# 50)
3. **Catholics** believe the following
 - i. **Jesus of Nazareth** was born a Jew during the time of King Herod the Great and the emperor Caesar Augustus
 - ii. Was the son of a daughter of Jerusalem, the Blessed **Mary** and was a carpenter by trade
 - iii. He died crucified by the procurator **Pontius Pilate** during the reign of the emperor Tiberius
 - iv. He is the eternal Son of **God** made man (CCC# 432)
4. The name "**Jesus**" means "**God** saves." It reflects the fact that through his **Incarnation** he is united to all humanity; at the same time it reflects his divinity (CCC# 430-435)
5. The word "Christ" comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew "**Messiah**," which means "anointed." This refers to his divine mission (of priest, **prophet** and king) to establish **God's** kingdom on earth, which was fully revealed through his death and **resurrection** (CCC# 436-440)
6. Unlike those who were referred to as "sons of **God**" in the Old Testament, when **Jesus** is referred to as the "Son of **God**" it is in reference to his divine oneness in being with **God** the Father and **Holy Spirit** (CCC# 441-445)

7. The term “Lord” is used by **Christians** in reference to **God** the Father and **Jesus**, his Son, as a means emphasizing their supreme authority over creation and every living thing (CCC# 446-451)
8. **Jesus**, as “God’s Word made Flesh” was sent so that humanity may know **God**’s love and serve as our model of holiness (CCC# 457-458)
9. Belief in the **Incarnation** of the Son of **God** is the distinctive sign of Christian **faith**. It means that **Jesus**, the divine Son of **God**, is became truly man while remaining truly **God** (CCC# 463)
10. **Mary** is the “**Immaculate Conception**.” To become the mother of the Savior, **Mary**, from her **conception**, was full of **grace** and free of **Original Sin** and every personal **sin** her whole lifetime (CCC# 490-493)
11. Since **Mary** is mother to **Jesus**, the Son of **God** incarnate, she is rightly called the “Mother of **God**” (CCC# 495)
12. **Jesus** was conceived in Mary’s womb solely through the power of the **Holy Spirit**. Mary’s virginal **conception** of **Jesus** reflects the truth that **Jesus** is both fully **God** and fully human. Her **perpetual virginity** is the expression of her total commitment to God’s saving plan and to her role as our spiritual mother (CCC# 496-507)
13. Students should be able to identify and understand the meaning of the following events of the Life of Christ:
 - i. The infancy narratives
 - ii. **Jesus** early life
 - iii. His **Baptism** and temptations in the desert
 - iv. The call of the **Apostles** and **disciples**
 - v. His proclamation of the **Kingdom of God**
 - vi. His teachings and sayings about the **Kingdom of God**
 - vii. The miracles of **Jesus** as signs of the Kingdom
 - viii. **Jesus’ Transfiguration**
 - ix. The Messianic entry into Jerusalem
 - x. His **Last Supper**, Arrest, and Trial
 - xi. The crucifixion
 - xii. His **Resurrection** and **Ascension** into **Heaven**
 - xiii. The sending of the **Holy Spirit**
14. **Jesus’ resurrection** is the fulfillment of God’s promises in the Old Testament, confirms his divinity, liberates us from **sin** and opens the way for us to eternal life after death (CCC# 653-655)

15. **Jesus** will return in glory at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. This judgment will reflect each of our treatment of the “least” of **Jesus**’ and our brethren (CCC# 678)

Area #2: ***The Celebration of the Christian Mystery*** (CCC #1066-1690)

1. The Risen Christ now acts through the **Sacraments** he instituted in order to give us his **grace** (CCC# 1084)
2. Christ’s redemptive suffering, death and **resurrection** are celebrated and experienced by the faithful in every celebration of the **Sacraments** (CCC# 1085)
3. Christ entrusted his **Apostles** with his work of bringing people to holiness, their successors (the bishops), through the Sacrament of **Holy Orders**, continue this mission in every age (CCC# 1086-1087)
4. Christ is always present in the **Church**, especially in the **Eucharist** (CCC# 1088)
5. **Jesus** gave new meaning to the **Passover** bread and wine at his **Last Supper** when he turned them into his body and blood (CCC# 1334, 1339)
6. **Jesus** gave the Jewish **Passover** new meaning in his **Last Supper**: he anticipated his passing over from earthly life to resurrected life with **God** the Father and anticipated the final **Passover** of the **Church** in the glory of **God**’s Kingdom at the end of time (CCC# 1340)
7. Sunday is the preeminent day for the liturgical **assembly** to listen to the Word of **God** and take part in the **Eucharist**, thus calling to mind the Passion, **Resurrection**, and glory of the Lord (CCC# 1167)

Area #3: ***Life in Christ*** (CCC #1691-2550)

1. Human persons are endowed with immortal and spiritual souls; they are made in God’s image and likeness and find their perfection in seeking and loving what is true and good (CCC# 1702-1705)
2. Enticed by the Evil One the first parents abused their freedom at the beginning of human history. Human beings still desire the good, but their nature bears the wound of **Original Sin**; they are inclined to evil and subject to error (CCC# 1707)

3. By his Passion, Christ delivered us from **Satan** and from **sin**. He won for us new life in the **Holy Spirit** and his **grace** restores what **sin** had damaged in us (CCC# 1708)
4. The **Beatitudes** are at the heart of **Jesus'** preaching (CCC# 1716-1717)
5. The **Beatitudes** teach us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or any human achievement—however beneficial it may be (such as science, technology, or art)—but in **God** alone, the source of every good and of all love (CCC# 1723)
6. The **Sermon on the Mount** describes for us the paths that lead to the Kingdom of **Heaven** (CCC# 1724)
7. The Law of **Moses** is a **preparation** for the **Gospel** in that it shows us what we must do (and must not do). By itself, it cannot save us from **sin**, but it does prepare persons for conversion to and **faith** in Christ (CCC# 1963-1964)
8. The New Law, or the Law of the **Gospel** is called the “Law of Love” because, through the **grace** of Christ and the inspiration of the **Holy Spirit**, the believer does what is good out of love and not fear (CCC# 1972)
9. The **Pope** and the bishops have been entrusted by Christ to teach with authority on matters of **faith** and morals (CCC# 2030-2040)
10. The moral life is a response to God’s love. Obeying God’s commandments, especially **Jesus’ Great Commandment**, are the principal ways we show love to **God** and to others (CCC# 2062-2067)

Area #4: **Christian Prayer** (CCC #2558-2856)

1. **Jesus**, God’s only Son, prayed with a human heart. He learned how to pray from his parents, learned to pray in the words and rhythms of Jewish prayers of his people (CCC# 2599)
2. Because of his oneness with the Father, **Jesus'** prayers had special meaning and occurred before the decisive moments of his **Public Ministry** (CCC# 2599)
3. **Jesus** prayed in a variety of ways: alone and with others, silently and aloud, in **synagogues** and the **Temple**, in private homes and outdoors. He also said prayers of praise, thanksgiving, lamentation, and **petition** (CCC# 2601-2604)

4. The prayers of **Jesus** on the Cross, especially his “last words,” teach us about **faith** and trust in **God** (CCC# 2605-2606)
5. We are encouraged to pray “in **Jesus**’ name” and with the confidence that he hears our prayers (CCC# 2614-2616)
6. Mary’s prayers, her trust in **God** and her willingness to do God’s will, serve as a model for **Christians** (CCC# 2617-2619)
7. The Lord’s **Prayer** (the “**Our Father**”) is the summary of the whole **Gospel** and serves as the central **prayer** of the **Church** (CCC# 2761, 2776)
8. As part of their Catholic education, Grade 7 students should be instructed in the following spiritual treasures of the Catholic **faith**.
 - i. The **Great Commandments**: Love of **God** and love of neighbor (CCC# 2055)
 - ii. The **Sermon on the Mount**, especially the **Beatitudes** (CCC# 1716-1717)
 - iii. The **Our Father**
 - iv. The **Magnificat**
 - v. Students will compose prayers of praise, thanksgiving, remorse, and **petition**
 - vi. Celebrations of the **Liturgical year** will continue in class and with the **parish** community. These should include Marian **feasts/Holy Days** and other **saints**’ feast

7th Grade Prayers:

Nicene Creed

Grade 7 Outcomes & Performance Indicators

Profession of Faith

Exit Outcome 1: **Describe the gradual stages of God's Revelation**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Identify how God sending Jesus and the Holy Spirit reveals his plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity and for the benefit of all.
- ❖ Describe goodness in people and themselves and the place s/he has in salvation history
- ❖ Produce a play on the beatitudes as a true means of happiness for a teenager today

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Develop with the family an environmental friendly way of caring for God's earth
- ❖ Identify with Jesus as an example of discipleship
- ❖ Spend time in prayer and meditation each day

Exit Outcome 2: **Read, understand and pray the Sacred Scripture as the inspired Word of God**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Find the major events in Christ's life in scripture and identify the meaning they have for Christians today
- ❖ Trace the meaning of God's promise in the Old Testament to liberate us from sin and give eternal life

- ❖ Identify how the Jewish Passover has new meaning because of Jesus and the Last Supper

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Use scripture as short prayers to say during the day
- ❖ Develop a personal relationship with Jesus and various forms of prayer
- ❖ Practice the “law of love”

Exit Outcome 3: **Know the basic teachings of the Church as identified in the Creed and Traditions; and show how these teachings are applied and lived out in the individual’s life**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Put the Apostles Creed in own words
- ❖ Write a poem on the meaning of Incarnation
- ❖ Recall stories of various feasts and titles for Jesus
- ❖ Identify with various saints to help look at vocation

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Pray the Apostles Creed together as a family
- ❖ Identify with rituals and traditions of the faith
- ❖ Recall scripture passages that fit with situations in his/her life and uses them as helps to the situation

Exit Outcome 4: **Interpret one's life and faith as gifts from God and recognize that both gifts must be cultivated and nurtured for eternal life**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Make a gift box of the ways God has gifted him/her and is thankful for them
- ❖ Brainstorm ways to practice the virtues in life
- ❖ Explain how Jesus is our Saver

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Share the stories of the new saints in the Church
- ❖ Identify how eternal life is possible
- ❖ Apply God's gifts to us as a means of salvation

Celebration of the Christian Mystery:

Exit Outcome 5: **Identify how liturgy is the primary way Catholics worship God**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Participate actively in the assembly at Mass
- ❖ Understand the meaning of redemptive suffering, death and resurrection and can identify times in life this is happening
- ❖ Explain the Sunday readings for Mass and what the homily was about

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Participate in the parish Reconciliation Service during Lent and Advent
- ❖ Read and pray with the Sunday readings
- ❖ Willingly volunteer to be a minister at liturgy

Exit Outcome 6: Demonstrate knowledge of the liturgical seasons and the importance of Sunday as the Lord's Day and other practices in the liturgical life of the Church

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Develop a Liturgical Year Calendar with the major feasts and parish/Archdiocesan saints on it for use by the class
- ❖ Prepare a Passover Meal for the class
- ❖ Know the liturgical season colors and can develop prayers appropriate to the seasons

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Identify with the patron saint of the day through giving examples or in prayer
- ❖ Set up feast day altars for the family
- ❖ Identify his/her life in the Church and Sunday worship as important

Exit Outcome 7: Describe the person of Jesus Christ in the Paschal Mystery as the root of every liturgical celebration

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Write a play to use with younger children on the importance of Baptism in life
- ❖ Identify why Easter is the major event in the life of the Church

- ❖ Compare Passover, Eucharist and Body of Christ

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Identify the Baptismal days of each family member and celebrates them
- ❖ Willing participates in Church
- ❖ Name the parts of the liturgical year

Exit Outcome 8: **Describe the seven sacraments, their symbols and ritual**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Participate in celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- ❖ Synthesize the ritual actions of each sacrament and the role of assembly, priest/deacon and choir
- ❖ Design a banner on one of the sacraments

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Participate in Sunday Eucharist and receiving communion
- ❖ Recognize the symbols for each sacrament
- ❖ Identify the importance of sacraments in one's life

Exit Outcome 9: **Demonstrate Christ's redeeming life and our Baptismal response through a well formed conscience**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Identify good and bad choices and a decision making plan for good choices

- ❖ Develop an examination of conscience to be used each night
- ❖ Discuss right decision making

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Share how to make good choices and what scripture stories can bring to understanding the choices
- ❖ Practice Christian values and virtues
- ❖ Examine conscience every day as part of prayer life

Exit Outcome 10: **Describe the reality of original sin, evil in the world, and how our wounded nature is redeemed through the Paschal Mystery**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Willingness to forgive others and accept forgiveness
- ❖ Discuss the wounded side of self and how Jesus can heal
- ❖ Recite an act of contrition

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Ability to watch a movie or newscast and identify the goodness or evil that is projected
- ❖ Seek advice to difficult situations
- ❖ Forgive family members

Exit Outcome 11: **List and describe the Ten Commandments and apply them to a personal life of virtue to today's world**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Name the Beatitudes and gives their meaning
- ❖ Develop a Ten Commandment guide to teen life today
- ❖ Design a poster on how to show God's love to others by keeping the Great Commandment

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Identify the commandments as it applies to his/her life
- ❖ Show willingness to work for forgiveness and peace in situations
- ❖ Site examples of people who work for forgiveness today

Exit Outcome 12: **Give examples of works of mercy and action on behalf of justice and stewardship as Disciples of Christ**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Identify ways to practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- ❖ Search the web as to ways the Pope and Church work on behalf of justice
- ❖ Interview persons from St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Charities and how they see themselves doing discipleship

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Gives time to the poor and justice endeavors
- ❖ Organize a food drive for St. Vincent de Paul
- ❖ Write to a shut in and visits him/her

Exit Outcome 13: **Develop and practice forms of prayer including adoration, blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Pray the Jesus Prayer
- ❖ Develop prayers of praise, thanksgiving, lamentation, and petition
- ❖ Recite the Nicene Creed

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Lead times of prayer at home
- ❖ Develop a prayer time on a regular basis
- ❖ Identify with Mary as our Mother

Exit Outcome 14: **Demonstrate the skills necessary for a personal and communal life of prayer integrating the traditions of the home**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Create prayers for Prayers of the Faithful for Sunday Mass
- ❖ Share various cultural traditions of prayer and their importance in the community
- ❖ Lead the Rosary

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Reflect a life of prayer
- ❖ Celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- ❖ Identify various ways of prayer

Exit Outcome 15: **Demonstrate the skills needed to pray using Scripture and meditation**

Indicators:

How will the student show that she/he understands this learning?

Student will:

- ❖ Create sacred space and time for prayer
- ❖ Formulate a Liturgy of the Word experience for the class
- ❖ Rewrite the Magnificat as how s/he would pray it today

How do you see examples of this outcome lived out in the family?

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Pray with Scripture on a regular basis
- ❖ Lead faith sharing questions related to scripture for the family
- ❖ Compose prayers