

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM CONCEPTS

Grade 8

By the end of Grade 8, 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. The **Holy Spirit** is in the **Church** and communicates to us, through **Baptism**, the life that originates in the Father and is offered to us in the Son (CCC# 683)
2. The **Church's** mission is a sacrament of the work of Christ and the **Holy Spirit** (CCC# 738)
3. Through the **Sacraments**, Christ communicates his Holy and sanctifying Spirit to the members of his Body, the **Church** (CCC# 739)
4. The word "**Church**" comes from the Greek for "convocation" or "**assembly**." In the Old Testament this word was used to describe the People of **God** assembled in **prayer** (CCC# 751)
5. In Christian usage, the word "**Church**" refers to a) the liturgical **assembly** convened, above all, by the **Eucharist**, b) the local community, and c) the universal community of believers (CCC# 752)
6. The **Church** is both divine and human, it is a visible community but at its depth it is the Mystical **Body of Christ** on earth (CCC# 771)
7. Upon entering the **Church** through **Baptism**, one receives a share in Christ's Priestly, prophetic, and royal offices (CCC# 783-786)
8. Christ is the head of the Body, which is the **Church** (CCC# 787-792)
9. The **Church** is marked by four characteristics:
 - i. "**One**" The **Holy Spirit** unites all members of the **Church**, in all their diversity, into one communion of love, **faith** and service. The unity of **Christians** is a reflection of the unity among the persons of the **Trinity** (CCC# 813-822)

- ii. **“Holy”** United with Christ, the **Church** is made holy by his Spirit. The sanctity of the **Church** is limited and imperfect, although the **saints** serve as models of holiness to which all Christian aspire (CCC# 823-829)
 - iii. **“Catholic”** In the **Church** is the fullness of the means of **salvation**. This call to membership in the People of **God** goes out to all people of all races and cultures (CCC# 830-838)
 - iv. **“Apostolic”** The **Church** was founded by the **Apostles** chosen by Christ himself, with the **Holy Spirit** the **Apostles’** successors (the **Pope** and the bishops) hands on the teaching of the **faith** received from Christ. Like the **Apostles** all members of the **Church** are “sent out” into the world for its sanctification (CCC# 857-865)
10. The **Church** exists on three levels: a) the living here on earth, b) those who have died and are now in **Purgatory** preparing for the eternal encounter with **God** in **heaven**, and c) the **saints** in **heaven** who are united with **God** and who continue to pray for us. This is known as the “communion of **saints**” (CCC# 954-959)
 11. The Blessed Mother, because she is the mother of **Jesus**, because of the role she played aiding the **Church’s** beginnings, because she is the first and pre-eminent disciple is called the “Mother of the **Church**” (CCC# 964-972)
 12. The mission of the **Church** in all times is to announce to humanity God’s forgiveness through Christ and to call all people to conversion and **faith** in **God** (CCC# 981-983)

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

1. Christ now lives and acts in and with his **Church**. He is always present in his **Church** and acts through the **Sacraments** (CCC# 1076, 1088)
2. Christ’s redemptive suffering, death and **resurrection** are celebrated and experience 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. There are seven **Sacraments** in the **Church: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders** and Matrimony (CCC# 1113)
5. Sunday is the preeminent day for the liturgical **assembly** to listen to the Word of **God** and take part in the **Eucharist**, the source and summit of the Christian life (CCC# 1167)
6. In the **liturgical year** the various aspects of the one Paschal mystery unfold. This is also the case with the cycle of **feasts** surrounding the mystery of the **Incarnation** (Annunciation, **Christmas**, and **Epiphany**) (CCC# 1171)
7. The celebration of the **saints** and **martyrs** during the **liturgical year** proclaims the Paschal mystery in those who have lived the **Gospel** to a heroic degree (CCC# 1173)

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** 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)
5. The **Sermon on the Mount** describes for us the paths that lead to the Kingdom of **Heaven** (CCC# 1724)
6. The **Pope** and the bishops have been entrusted by Christ to teach with authority to teach the faithful the truth to be believed, the charity to practice, and the happiness with **God** to hope for (CCC# 2030-2040)

7. 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)
8. Social Justice can be achieved by first respecting the **God-given** dignity and equality of each person (CCC# 1928-1929, 1934-1935)
9. It is the **Church's** role to remind all people, especially those in authority over others, of the legitimate rights of the human person -- especially the right to life as well as the means necessary for living it with dignity (CCC# 1930-1931)
10. Although legislation can help alleviate the damage done by fear, prejudice, and un-Christian attitudes, only the **conversion of hearts** in which people recognize each other as "neighbors" can lead to the establishment of just and harmonious societies (CCC# 1931)
11. A key characteristic of a **just person** is their compassion for the disadvantaged (CCC# 1932)
12. "Liberation" is incompatible with hatred of one's enemy as a person, but not with hatred of the evil that he/she does as an enemy (CCC# 1933)
13. **Economic social disparity** between individuals and societies undermines social justice and peace among peoples. **Christians** are called to build **just societies** by addressing these inequalities and by building "solidarity" among all people (CCC# 1938-1942)
14. Students will learn about and develop ways of enacting the following:
 - a. **The Corporal Works of Mercy**
 - Feed the hungry
 - Give drink to the thirsty
 - Cloth the naked
 - Visit those in prison
 - Shelter the homeless
 - Visit the sick
 - Bury the dead
 - b. **The Spiritual Works of Mercy**
 - Admonish sinners
 - Teach the ignorant

- Give advice to the doubtful
- Comfort those who suffer
- Be patient with others
- Forgive injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead

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

1. Through his **prayer** life, **Jesus** teaches us how to pray: 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, 2626-2643)
2. Mary's prayers, her trust in **God** and her willingness to do God's will, serve as a model for **Christians** (CCC# 2617-2619)
3. Through **prayer** the Christian grows in **faith**, hope and charity (CCC# 2656-2658)
4. In the "communion of **saints**" we learn how to pray in various ways from the example of holy men and women throughout our history, and we have confidence that the **saints** pray for us in **Heaven** (CCC# 2683-2684)
5. Christian **prayer** can take many forms:

Vocal Prayer

Saying traditional prayers that all **Catholics** remember or engaging in informal conversation with **God**

Meditation

Thinking about and reflecting on how **God** is present to us in the many situations in which we find ourselves,

Contemplation

Simply being quiet and listening to **God** or enjoying being in God's presence

6. Sometimes it is very difficult to pray. It requires effort, especially when we are distracted, feel that **God** is not listening to us, or when **God** does not answer our prayers in the way we would like (CCC# 2725-2737)

7. **Prayer** is a vital necessity for the Christian life; it allows the **Holy Spirit** to help us be free of **sin** so that we can love and serve **God** and others (CCC# 2744-2745)
8. 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)
9. In addition to the prayers they have already learned, Grade 8 students will continue to learn the following
 - a. Students will compose prayers of praise, thanksgiving, remorse, and **petition**
 - b. Celebrations of the **Liturgical year** will continue in class. These should include Marian **feasts/Holy Days** and other **saints' feasts**
 - c. The parts of the **Mass** and its major prayers and **rituals**
 - d. Students will take a leadership role in the planning and celebration of liturgies as well as morning/afternoon **prayer**

8th Grade Prayer:

Nicene Creed

Grade 8 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:

- ❖ Describe the goodness of God's creation and how Catholics are called to work to support that goodness in the world even in light of original sin
- ❖ Write a story about our first parents and how they abused their freedom
- ❖ Develop the pros and cons of living a virtue-filled life

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Practice good stewardship of created goods
- ❖ Deepen in a sense of the goodness of individuals
- ❖ Work for peace when there are disagreements

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:

- ❖ Compare the meaning of "just people" with the beatitudes
- ❖ Read and analyze scripture texts
- ❖ Pray about situations that affects him/her and the world

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Describe passages of scripture in relationship to life's situations

- ❖ Develop a prayer attitude with scripture
- ❖ Become familiar with using the Bible

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:

- ❖ Describe the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church
- ❖ Identify as the Body of Christ and the unity that is possible through Christ
- ❖ Define the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Pray the creed during Mass with reverence and understanding
- ❖ Willingly participate in Church ministry and activities
- ❖ Understand the communion of saints

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:

- ❖ Describe faith as gift in own words and situations
- ❖ Recognize the presence of grace in one's life and how to cooperate with God's grace
- ❖ Compare different saints' understanding of eternal life

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Offer thankfulness to God for the gift of faith in his/her life
- ❖ Connect the presence of God in life
- ❖ Practice graciousness

Celebrating 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 in planning a liturgical season liturgy
- ❖ Create a welcoming environment for the Church
- ❖ Identify the parts of the Mass and the role of the assembly in each part of the Mass

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Willingly attend Sunday Mass
- ❖ Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- ❖ Show reverence 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:

- ❖ Organize a prayer experience for the Feast of St. Francis as the saint for the Archdiocese of San Francisco
- ❖ Create a saints calendar for younger children in the program
- ❖ Write invitations to the sick for an Anointing of the Sick service during the Lenten season

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Celebrate saints' days and feasts
- ❖ Understand the words Incarnation, Annunciation, Christmas and Epiphany
- ❖ Explain why keeping the Lord's Day is 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:

- ❖ Identify with Jesus and discipleship
- ❖ Define Paschal Mystery
- ❖ Outline the structure for a liturgical celebration

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Develop a personal relationship with Jesus and takes time to foster it
- ❖ Identify various martyrs in the Church and how they modeled the life of Jesus
- ❖ Recognize suffering as a value in life through Jesus

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:

- ❖ Identify how Christ lives and acts in and with the Church through the sacraments
- ❖ Name the seven sacraments, who celebrates them, their symbols and the role of the assembly
- ❖ Recall various pieces of liturgical music appropriate for different sacramental celebrations

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
- ❖ Volunteer to minister at liturgy
- ❖ Share what s/he wants to do in life and how one can share in the sacramental life of the Church

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:

- ❖ Describe the just societies theory, the economic social disparity between individuals and the meaning of solidarity
- ❖ Write to congress and legislative persons on issues of justice
- ❖ Identify social justice agencies in the area and how their mission supports what the Catholic Church calls the baptized to accomplish

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Develop moral decisions considering the role of justice
- ❖ Live the Corporal Works of Mercy
- ❖ Identify un-Christian attitudes

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:

- ❖ Recall how God's love is a response to the moral life
- ❖ Discuss the meaning of "conversion of heart"
- ❖ Apply the need for forgiveness because of original sin, evil in the world and our call to redemption

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Identify his/her participation in sin and the need for forgiveness
- ❖ Pray for guidance in difficult and sinful situations
- ❖ Describe the evil found in the world and how Jesus gives us another way of living

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:

- ❖ Compare the Sermon on the Mount and the Ten Commandments
- ❖ Recognize people who have lived holy lives
- ❖ Create a virtue chart of people in society today who live out virtues for the good of others

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Measure his/her life in relation to the Ten Commandments

- ❖ Formulate a way to live out virtues in daily life
- ❖ Examine the role of media and the stories presented in relationship to living a life of discipleship

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:

- ❖ Discuss in small groups how to practice the dismissal words of the Mass; “Go in peace to love and serve the world”
- ❖ Work with St. Vincent de Paul Society, Knights of Peter Claver, or Knights of Columbus to do works of mercy
- ❖ Participate in a justice rally in the area

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Practice a Corporal Work of Mercy during Lent
- ❖ Identify with the need to speak out for the poor
- ❖ Practice patience

Christian Prayer:

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:

- ❖ Formulate vocal and meditative prayers

- ❖ Compose a booklet of various saints and the way they prayed.
Include in the booklet personal prayers from the saints
- ❖ Have a living rosary for various classes during May

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Contemplate on a regular basis
- ❖ Identify with traditional prayers of the church
- ❖ Pray in the morning and evening

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:

- ❖ Define the role of Mary and her trust in God as model for Christians
- ❖ Be comfortable with vocal prayer
- ❖ Meditate with scripture

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

Within the family the child will:

- ❖ Explain the need for prayer in his/her life
- ❖ Recite traditional and family prayers
- ❖ Participate in family prayer time

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:

- ❖ Develop a scriptural prayer booklet
- ❖ Share guided meditations with younger children
- ❖ Participate in a play on ways to pray from scripture

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
- ❖ Share prayer willingly with the family
- ❖ Recalls meditations that are meaningful to him/her