



GRADE > PARENT PAGE

Parents have the unique responsibility for the education of their children; they are the first educators or catechists. They teach by their witness of the faith, through their values and attitudes, by their Christian example of love for Christ and his church. When children are baptized, parents accept the responsibility to raise their children in the practice of the faith...(National Directory for Catechesis 234-235)

Dear Parents,

In a special document entitled *Letter to Families*, Pope John Paul II wrote: “Parents are the first and most important educators of their own children, and they also possess a fundamental competence in this area; they are educators because they are parents”(16). You are the first and best role model for your child in these growing years. Your role as parent to love, teach, and lead your child to Jesus is a remarkable and noble vocation.

Junior High is a time of rapid change. Physically, cognitively, morally, emotionally, and socially your child is “crossing the bridge” between childhood and adulthood. It may be a longer journey for some than others because of each one’s unique pattern of development. However, there are some general developmental comments about this stage that can be made.

Your Child’s Faith Development

Seventh graders desire to be actively involved in and are open to service opportunities. They are willing to explore a personal relationship with God as they begin to define their own image of God. They look to the Church for the content and expression of faith. As a parent you will want to provide opportunities for “service,” “community building,” “reflection,” and “activity.” Seventh graders need both faith structure and flexibility in their religion classes and at home. These young people present particular challenges and opportunities to those who minister to them: you, as parents, as well as, those responsible for religious education in parishes, youth workers, and clergy. They have needs and wants that are unique to their situations and their levels of maturity in many areas. Adults who work with these young adolescents must be attentive to their special circumstances, needs, and attitudes.

Adolescents:

- ✚ Are sensitive to physical changes and body image which greatly influences self-image
- ✚ Begin abstract thinking
- ✚ Use a more complex decision making process
- ✚ Can reason based on possibilities not just experience
- ✚ Can be self-conscious and critical
- ✚ Want to belong
- ✚ Begin to distance themselves at times from family influences and identify more closely with peers
- ✚ Seek limited independence
- ✚ Value friendships based on trust and loyalty
- ✚ Reason at conventional levels
- ✚ Resolve moral dilemmas based on expectations outside of self, i.e. peers, laws, parents, etc.

Our diocese provides many resources and materials that will help you better understand the faith and work with your child at home. Among the resources is the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, an adaptation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. For more information contact the Department for Educational Media at (412) 456-3120 or e-mail jhirst@diopitt.org.

How You Can Help Your Child Grow In Faith

This year your child will continue to view the Catholic Church as a faith community given life by the Holy Spirit. He/she will come to realize that it is Christ's presence in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit which gives glory and praise to the Father and brings His redeeming love to all. As Catholics, we claim Jesus as the source of all teaching, sacramental life, our mission, and our ministries. As people of God we continue the mission of Jesus through active and committed participation in the life of the Church. Sacraments are specific faith actions of the Church empowered by Jesus through the guidance of the Spirit.

Your child will come to learn that building a strong and realistic concept of him/herself is based on Jesus' vision of being fully human. As God's children, created in His image and likeness, we are called to holiness and eternal life in God's Kingdom. Developing relationships with peers, parents, and other adults should be based on honest, love, and respect, leading us into a deeper life and faith and a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

Here are several points that will assist you over the course of this year, to help your child grow in his/her faith.

- Attend and participate in Sunday Mass as a family. Afterward, talk about some of the things mentioned in the homily. Once a month, allow your eight grader to select an activity that the family can enjoy after Mass (i.e. dining at a favorite restaurant, attending a special movie, sports activity etc).**
- Help your child identify ways to participate in your parish. Stress the importance of service to others by volunteering our time and talents. Mention the importance of tithing.**
- Encourage your child (and his/her friends) to become involved in your parish Middle School Ministry Program or Youth Ministry Program. If your parish does not have a program, check with the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry (412) 456-3140 to locate a program close by.**
- Discuss ways in which your child can spread the good news about Jesus (i.e. example to others, helping in the community/neighborhood, acts of kindness). Explain that Jesus works through us to reach all people.**
- Help your child become familiar with a Church agency that serves the needs of the community (i.e. food bank, Meals on Wheels, local nursing home).**
- Encourage your child to visit the diocesan website at www.diopitt.org (the Church teaches, Secretariat for Education, Youth and Young Adult Ministry) to become familiar with the Youth Ministry homepage.**
- Have your child surf the internet for information on the lives of Catholic saints to research his/her patron saint in preparation for Confirmation. Explain why you chose his/her name. Help your child identify a sponsor for the sacrament of Confirmation keeping in mind the special person must be a practicing Catholic in good standing in the Church.**
- Purchase a teen's Catholic bible as a gift for your child. Encourage him/her to pray often.**

Grade >

BACKGROUND FOR CATECHISTS

Know Your Audience

Just like Jesus, every good catechist knows their audience.

“The catechist – must take into consideration all the human factors of a particular age level in order to present the Gospel message in a vital and compelling way.” (NDC #48)

Who Are Your Seventh Graders?

JUNIOR HIGH – Seventh and eighth grade is a time of rapid change. Physically, cognitively, morally, emotionally, and socially these young people are “crossing the bridge” between childhood and adulthood. It may be a longer journey for some than others because of each one’s unique pattern of development. However there are some general developmental comments about this stage that can be made.

DEVELOPMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Junior High Students:

Physical

- Undergo a growth spurt.
- Develop secondary sex characteristics.
- Are sensitive to physical changes and body image which greatly influences self-image.

Cognitive

- Begin abstract thinking.
- Use a more complex decision making process.
- Can reason based on possibilities not just experience.
- Can be self-conscious and critical.

Identity

- Want to belong.
- Begin to distance themselves at times from family influences and identify more closely with peers.
- Seek limited independence.
- Value friendship based on trust and loyalty.

Moral

- Reason at conventional level.
- Resolve moral dilemmas based on expectations outside of self, i.e. peers, laws, parents, etc.

Faith

- Desire active involvement and are open to service opportunities.
- Are willing to explore a personal relationship with God as they begin to define their own image of God.
- Look to the Church for the content and expression of faith.

Realizing all these factors, a junior high religion program should be one that still involves the concrete, but also provides opportunities for “community building,” “reflection,” and “activity.” These young teens are truly in a transition time. They need both faith structure and flexibility in a religion program.

Junior high school students, who can range in age from 11-15, present particular challenges and opportunities to those who minister to them: parents, those responsible for religious education in parishes, youth workers, and clergy. These young people have needs and wants that are unique to their situations and their levels of maturity in many areas. Adults who work with these younger adolescents must be attentive to the special circumstances, needs, and attitudes of junior high students.

NOTES

- ❖ Pope John Paul II in **On Catechesis in Our Time** encourages the use of advances in pedagogy; biology, sociology as they help us to model God’s Divine Pedagogy (teaching us gradually in stages according to our level of development). The above noted information is consistent with such documents as the *General Directory for Catechesis*, the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and other Catechetical Documents of the Church.
- ❖ The above sciences have limitations. While this information does provide references to typical age ranges, children continue to be viewed as individuals and individual differences need to be taken into account.



SEVENTH GRADE

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Themes: Jesus and Morality (Including respect for life).

Jesus became man and shared our human experience while remaining God. The church looks upon Jesus' life, values, and teachings as the fullest revelation of God, His Father.

Our moral life is a lived response to God's covenant love. A Catholic, prompted by the Holy spirit, makes choices by asking, "What does the mind and heart of Jesus and the Church tell us about this situation?"

The Catechist should:

- **Make copies of the Parent Page (front and back) for students to take home.**
- **Read the Background for Catechists Information.**
- **Become familiar with the *National Directory for Catechesis & the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*.**
- Review and Clarify Previous Understandings with students:
 - Identify Church as a community of believers in the Risen Lord with its beginnings in the People of God of the Old Testament.
 - Recognize God as personally involved in the history of His people.
 - Recall the place of oral tradition in the formation of the Bible.
 - Understand that Jesus was a Jew, and that the roots of Christianity are founded in Judaism.
 - Review the sacraments as sacred rites giving expression to covenant and commitment.
 - Review Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as the sacraments of initiation and as sources of identity.
 - Review Penance and Anointing of the Sick as sacraments of healing.
 - Review Matrimony and Holy Orders as sacraments of commitment and service.
 - Review parts of the Mass.
 - Understand the Seasons of the Church Year and their importance.
 - Know by heart the following prayers:

Sign of the Cross	Apostles Creed
Our Father	Nicene Creed
Hail Mary	Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Glory Be	Memorare
Act of Contrition	
 - Prayers before and after meals (optional)

SEVENTH GRADE

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES


AT THE END OF THIS GRADE LEVEL STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS AND APPRECIATION OF THE EXPERIENCES INDICATED.

[Note about symbols: Of the six tasks of catechesis (knowledge of the faith; liturgy & sacraments; moral formation; prayer; community; missionary spirit) five have a symbol assigned to them. Knowledge of the Faith is the organizing task]

Symbol Key:

 = Liturgy & Sacraments

 = Moral Formation

 = Prayer

 = Community

 = Missionary Spirit

Reference Code: CCC = *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Compendium = *Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

USCCA = *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*


KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

- ❖ **Jesus as God was also man, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- ❖ **Jesus Christ possesses two natures, one divine and the other human, not confused, but united in the one person of God's Son.** Date completed _____
CCC #464, 469, 480-482, 484; Compendium #85-95; USCCA pp. 81-83, 85-86, 91, 301, 344

 - Students will experience prayer as a deepening of personal relationship with Jesus.

Scripture: Accounts of Jesus' nature, miracles, and miraculous cures

- ❖ **The title 'Son of God' signifies the unique and eternal relationship of Jesus Christ to God his Father To be a Christian, one must believe that Jesus Christ is the Divine Son of God.** Date completed _____
CCC #444, 454; Compendium # 83, 85, 90; USCCA pp. 81-82, 85-87

 - Students will perceive themselves as part of the Church: the People of God, the body of Christ.

Galatians 4:1-10... God's Heirs

- ❖ **Jesus is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.** Date completed _____
CCC #240-242, 253-255; Compendium #42, 46-49, 83; USCCA pp. 52-53, 62, 81

 - Students will know by heart the following formal prayers: Sign of the Cross, Glory Be, Apostles Creed

Matthew 16:15-20... Peter Acknowledges Jesus as Messiah

Vocabulary: incarnation, messiah, trinity

❖ **Mary is the Mother of God and model of faith.**

❖ **Mary, “from the first instant of her conception (Immaculate Conception), was totally preserved from the stain of original sin, and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life.”** **Date completed** _____

CCC #508, 509, 721, 722, 963, 967; Compendium #95, 96, 196;
USCCA pp. 82, 143-145, 147, 471, 515, 520



- Students will know by heart the following formal prayers: Hail Mary, Mysteries of the Rosary, Hail Holy Queen



- Students will identify traditional saints whose lives were dedicated to service.

Vocabulary: assumption, ascension

❖ **God the Father sent Jesus to be the Messiah, bringing good news, healing, and freedom to the poor and oppressed.** **Date completed** _____

CCC #713, 714; Compendium #78, 82; USCCA pp. 83, 85, 109, 507



- Students will understand that they are called to continue Christ’s mission of forgiving, healing, and reconciling one another.



- Students will develop ways to put into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Examine how social ills and injustices affect the lives of all people as well as their responsibility for others even when suffering is perceived as a global experience. Become aware of local and global social concerns.

Mark 1:40-45... Jesus’ compassion for others; cure of leper

Mark 6: 34-44... Feeding the hungry

Vocabulary: corporal works of mercy, disciple, responsibility, social justice

❖ **The mysteries of Christ’s public life are his baptism, temptations, announcement of the Kingdom, miracles, transfiguration, ascent to and entry into Jerusalem.**

Date completed _____

CCC #535-560, 565-570; Compendium #89, 101-103, 108, 110, 132; USCCA pp. 79-80, 520



- Students will understand their story in light of the story of salvation.

Luke 2:22-40... Presentation in the Temple Mark 1:23-28... power over evil

Mark 1:40-45... Cure of Leper Mark 6:34-44... Feeding the hungry

Luke 9: 28-36... Transfiguration of Jesus

Other scripture: Accounts of Jesus’ miracles, and miraculous cures

Vocabulary: apostle, beatitudes, commandments, disciple, gospel, miracle, parable

❖ **Jesus' mission was to save people from sin and to lead them to the kingdom.**

Date completed _____

CCC #608, 542-545; Compendium # 9, 144; USCCA pp. 79-80, 91-92, 486



- Students will appreciate that belonging to the church means participating in its mission.



- Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

Luke 19: 9-10; 4:16-21; John 10:10... Purposes of Jesus' Coming

Vocabulary: authority, commitment, consequence, grace, kingdom, Kingdom of God, messiah

❖ **The Beatitudes are a guide to the values of God's kingdom.**

Date completed _____

CCC #1716-171; Compendium #358-363; USCCA pp. 308, 500, 505



- Students will understand they are called to continue Christ's mission of forgiving, healing, and reconciling one another. Accept the invitation and responsibility to become part of parish community experiences.



- Students will experience days of reflection and retreats as opportunities for personal spiritual growth.



- Students will recognize that in baptism all Christians receive a call to service. Develop ways to put into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Reflect on and participate in service opportunities for oneself within the parish and local community. Become involved in service outreach projects, clothing and food collections, and fund-raising drives. Realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work.

Matthew 5:1-12... Jesus' Sermon on the Mount; Beatitudes

Vocabulary: beatitudes, disciple, grace, responsibility, values, virtue

❖ **Jesus' miracles are dramatic signs of God's power and love.**

Date completed _____

CCC 546-550; Compendium # 108; USCCA pp. 79-80, 539

Scripture: Accounts of Jesus' nature, miracles, and miraculous cures

Vocabulary: miracle, paschal mystery, resurrection

❖ **The Gospels are a divinely inspired written expression of how the early Church understood its faith experience and the Risen Christ in their lives.**

Date completed _____

CCC #76, 124-127, 515, 573; Compendium #22; USCCA pp. 21-24, 26, 119



- Students will understand their story in light of the story of salvation.

Vocabulary: evangelist, Gospel, New Testament, parable

- ❖ **Jesus gave us a new commandment of love.** **Date completed** _____
CCC #1970; Compendium #420; USCCA pp. 87, 309,321, 325



- Students will create a family and classroom environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly. Discuss the future of the Church and what the adolescent role in the church might be. Identify and appreciate special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others.



- Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one's relationships with self, others and God.



- Students will reflect on and participate in service opportunities for oneself within the parish and local community.

Mark 1:40-45... Jesus' compassion for others; cure of leper 1 Corinthians 13... Love is
Mark 6:34-44... Feeding the hungry Mark 10:13-16... Blessing the children
John 13:4-7 & 34-35... Following Jesus' Way
Matthew 5:43-48 & 19:20-27; Luke 10:25-27 & 6:27-49... Following Jesus' Way

Vocabulary: commandments, disciple, virtue

- ❖ **Jesus did really die and rise bodily from the dead and through his death, and resurrection, he conquered death and the devil "who has the power of death."**
- ❖ **Jesus redeemed us from sin and death through His sufferings, death, and resurrection.**

Date completed _____

CCC # 601-603, 635-636; Compendium #57, 58, 65, 110, 126-131, 204, 219, 220;
USCCA pp. 85, 86, 92, 178, 184, 221, 224, 243, 525

Scripture: The Gospel narrations of Jesus' death and resurrection

Vocabulary: apostle, disciple, grace, mortal sin, venial sin, paschal mystery

- ❖ **The holy women and the disciples came to believe in Christ's Resurrection through the discovery of the empty tomb, and especially through the appearances of the Risen One.**

Date completed _____

- ❖ CCC #640-642, 657; Compendium #126-131; USCCA pp. 96-97



- Students will interpret the importance of modern witnesses in the Catholic Church.

Scripture: The Gospel narrations of Jesus' death and resurrection

Vocabulary: messiah, miracle, prayer, resurrection

- ❖ **Christ is the heavenly high priest, always interceding for us.**

Date completed _____

CCC #662-667; Compendium #132, 554; USCCA pp. 99, 263,468, 471




- Students will experience various forms of prayer, such as silent meditation, prayer with Scripture, centering prayer, spontaneous prayer, formal prayer, prayer with song, and liturgy of the hours. Experience days of reflection and retreats as opportunities for personal spiritual growth.

Luke 11:1-4... Jesus and the value of prayer

Vocabulary: abba, kingdom, kingdom of God, prayer

- ❖ **Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is present in the Church, in the sacraments, and in the Christian community.** Date completed _____
 CCC #1084-1088, 1107-1109; Compendium #136-146;
 USCCA pp. 115,132, 138, 170, 106-107, 168-169

✚ - Students will appreciate the Church's ritual life as pluralistic and multi-cultural. Appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

 - Students will perceive themselves as part of the Church: the People of God, the Body of Christ. Develop the skills necessary for building relationships and community life, such as trust, self-disclosure, and communication.


John 14:26; 20:19-23; Matthew 28:17-20... Jesus sends the Spirit
 John 6:26-69... Foreshadowing of the Real Presence in the Eucharist

Vocabulary: grace, sacrament, trinity


- ❖ **The first and last point of reference of moral catechesis is Jesus Christ himself.**
- ❖ **The moral life is an appropriate response to God's covenant love.**
- ❖ **Catholic moral values reflect the heart and mind of Jesus.**
- ❖ **The moral life demands conforming our minds and hearts to that of Jesus Christ.**

Date completed _____

CCC #1694, 1698, 1813, 1965-1974; Compendium # 429; USCCA pp. 307-321, 323-338

 - Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one's relationships with self, others and God.

✚ - Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

 - Students will understand they are called to continue Christ's mission of forgiving, healing, and reconciling one another.

1 Corinthians 13... Love is Vocabulary: values, virtue

- ❖ **The contentment, joy, fulfillment and fullness of heaven are supernatural, surpassing anything we are able to do or merit on our own.** Date completed _____
 CCC #1722, 1727; Compendium #209; USCCA pp. 153-154

John 15... Vine and the Branches

Vocabulary: commitment, consequence, free will, grace, responsibility

- ❖ **There is a relationship between choices and consequences and between rights and responsibilities.**
- ❖ **In order for an act to be good, its object, intention and circumstances must all be good.**
- ❖ **There is a bond between freedom and truth. True freedom is the choice to embrace God's laws.** Date completed _____

CCC #1731-1739, 1755, 1760; Compendium # 370-376, 437-441;
 USCCA pp. 327-331, 314-319

Romans 7... Freedom/Law Vocabulary: authority, commandments, conscience, consequences, free will, morality, mortal sin, venial sin

- ❖ **The conscience is our secret core, where God speaks in the depths of our hearts.**
- ❖ **Our conscience is a judgment of reason that helps us to recognize the moral quality of a human action.**
- ❖ **When our conscience accuses us, it means that God may be calling us to conversion.**
- ❖ **The formation of our conscience is a life-long task requiring prayer, fidelity in the Church's teachings and the guidance of her Magisterium. Date completed _____**
 CCC #1778, 1779, 1784, 1795-1796-1797; Compendium #372-377;
 USCCA pp. 242, 314-315, 320



- Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one's relationships with self, others, and God.



- Students will experience various forms of prayers. Develop a habit of daily prayer to seek guidance and discern one's vocation.



- Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

Matthew 25:31-46... Teaching on the Last Judgment Vocabulary: conscience, grace

- ❖ **By the virtue of hope we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness. Date completed _____**
 CCC #1817-1821, 1843; Compendium # 385, 387, 442; USCCA pp. 333, 316-317, 343

✠ - Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

Matthew 25... Parables

Vocabulary: kingdom, Kingdom of God, messiah, parable, sacrament

- ❖ **There is objective evil. Date completed _____**
- ❖ **There are moral absolutes (right and wrong).**
 CCC #311, 1756; Compendium #367, 375,376; USCCA pp. 56-57, 311-312, 320, 323-338



- Students will create a family and classroom environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly. Develop the skills necessary for building relationships and community life, such as trust, self-disclosure, and communication.

Mark 1:23-28... Jesus' power over evil Wisdom 1:1-16... Justice

Vocabulary: social justice, values, virtue

- ❖ **The moral law finds its permanent expression in the Ten Commandments, the "privileged expression of the natural law." Date completed _____**
 CCC #2061-2064, 2070; Compendium #418; USCCA pp. 327-328



- Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one's relationships with self, others and God.

Exodus 10:1-17... Ten Commandments Exodus 23:1-9... Laws

Vocabulary: commandments, conscience, consequence, morality, mortal sin, venial sin

1st Commandment: I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
Date completed _____

- ❖ **The first commandment binds us to hope in God. Sins opposed to it include despair, presumption and tempting God.**
- ❖ **The first commandment calls us to worship God alone. Opposed to true worship are idolatry, sacrilege and simony.**
- ❖ **Idolatry means to worship a false God. It also means to put anything or anyone in the place of God.**

CCC #2090-2092, 2099-2100, 2112-2114, 2119-2121, 2136, 2139; Compendium #442-446; USCCA pp. 339-349

Exodus 10:1-17... Ten Commandments

Vocabulary: commandments, covenant, mortal sin, venial sin, virtue

2nd Commandment: You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

Date completed _____

- ❖ **The second commandment calls us to respect the name of Jesus.**
- ❖ **God's name is dishonored in especially grave ways by false oaths, perjury, and cursing.**
- ❖ **Blasphemy is the use of the name of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary, and of the saints in an offensive way.**

CCC #2145, 2150-2152, 2162-2163; Compendium #447-449; USCCA pp. 351-359

Exodus 10:1-17... Ten Commandments

Vocabulary: abba, commandments, conscience

3rd Commandment: Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day Date completed _____

- ❖ **Sunday fulfills the Sabbath; it is the day of the Resurrection.**

CCC #2174-2176, 2190-2191; Compendium #450-454; USCCA pp. 361-371

✠ - Students will appreciate the Church's ritual life as pluralistic and multi-cultural. Plan and participate in class/school liturgies.

Scripture: the Gospel narrations of Jesus' death and resurrection (The Last Supper)

- ❖ **The Sunday liturgy is the heart of the Church's life. By participating, we show ourselves to be members of the Catholic community.**
- ❖ **Catholics have the privilege and obligation of attending Sunday Mass; not to do so is a grave sin.**

CCC # 2177-2178, 2180-2182, 2192; Compendium #219, 453; USCCA pp. 365-367

✠ - Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.



- Students will perceive themselves as part of the Church: the People of God, the Body of Christ. Discern the different kinds of levels of commitment determined by different relationships in the community.

Vocabulary: commitment, culture, disciple, paschal mystery, prayer, precepts of the church, sacrament

4th Commandment: Honor your father and your mother. Date completed _____

- ❖ **The family is based on marriage, which exists for the good of the spouse and the procreation and education of children.**
- ❖ **The family is seen as “a man and woman united in marriage together with children.”**
CCC #2201, 2202, 2249; Compendium #456; USCCA pp. 375, 376, 380, 283
Vocabulary: commitment, family, responsibility, values
- ❖ **The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit.**
CCC #2205; USCCA pp. 377



- Students will perceive themselves as part of the Church: the People of God, the Body of Christ. Develop skills necessary for building relationships and community life, such as trust, self-disclosure, and communication.

John 15... Vine and Branches Vocabulary: family

- ❖ **All baptized persons can and must participate in the life of the Church; therefore the Catholic community must manifest compassion and concern for those that find themselves in situations of separation and divorce.**
CCC #1651; Compendium #349; USCCA pp. 287-288



- Students will recognize that in baptism all Christians receive a call to serve.



- Students will create a family and classroom environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly. Discern the different kinds of levels of commitment determined by different relationships in the community.



- Students will understand the sacraments of initiation as a source of identity.

Galatians 4:1-10... God's Heirs Vocabulary: social justice, virtue

- ❖ **Children must always show respect for their parents and support them in old age.**
CCC #2218; Compendium # 459; USCCA pp. 377-378



- Students will help to create a family environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly.

1 Corinthians 13... Love is

Vocabulary: beatitudes, commandments, family, grace, responsibility, values, virtue

- ❖ **The duties of citizens are to pay taxes, vote and defend their country.**
CCC #2239-2240, 2255; Compendium #464; USCCA pp. 380



- Students will discuss the future of the Church and what the adolescent role in the Church might be. Appreciate that belonging to the church means participating in its mission.

Exodus 23:1-9... Laws

Vocabulary: commitment, free will, responsibility

5th Commandment: You shall not kill.

Date Completed _____

- ❖ **Concern for human rights, especially for human life, is a basic Gospel value.**
CCC #2258, 2273, 2297; Compendium # 466; USCCA pp. 390-391
- ❖ **Human life in all its various stages, from conception to natural death, has intrinsic value.**
CCC #2260; Compendium #466, 478, 479; USCCA pp. 387-402
- ❖ **“From its conception, the child has the right to life. Direct abortion, that is abortion willed as an end or a means, is a [crime against life], gravely contrary to the moral law. The Church imposes the canonical penalty of excommunication for this crime against human life.”**
CCC #2322; Compendium # 470; USCCA pp. 391-392
- ❖ **Stereotyping the physically or mentally challenged is to be avoided and persons with disabilities are to be accepted.**
CCC #2270-2319, 2322-2323; Compendium #407-409, 413; USCCA pp. 399, 422
- ❖ **The Church opposes the death penalty.**
CCC #2266-2267, 2306; Compendium #468-469; USCCA pp. 423, 394-395
- ❖ **Direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick or dying persons. It is a grave sin and is always evil.**
CCC #2276-2279; Compendium #470; USCCA pp. 393-394
- ❖ **Suicide is wrong because we are stewards, not owners, of our lives.**
CCC #2280-2283, 2325; Compendium # 470; USCCA pp. 393-394, 398-400, 422-423
- ❖ **Child abuse, ageism, racism, sexism or a lack of reverence toward persons with physical or mental disabilities is evil.**
CCC# 2259-2291; Compendium # 411-414; USCCA pp. 326-327
- ❖ **“The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life Clandestine production and trafficking in drugs are scandalous practices.” They constitute direct cooperation with evil.**
CCC #2291; Compendium # 474; USCCA pp.401
- ❖ **Justice and charity lead to peace; injustice to war.**
CCC #2304, 2317; Compendium #481, 486; USCCA pp. 332-333, 395-396



- Students will understand they are called to continue Christ’s mission of forgiving, healing, and reconciling one another. Discuss the future of the Church and what the adolescent role in the Church might be.



- Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one’s relationships with self, others and God.



- Students will experience prayer as a deepening of personal relationship with Jesus.



- Students will become aware of local and global social concerns. Realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work. Interpret the importance of modern witnesses in the Catholic Church.

Exodus 10:1-17... Ten Commandments


Wisdom 1:1-16... Justice


Vocabulary: commandments, conscience, consequence, gospel, grace, morality mortal sin, responsibility, social justice, values, venial sin

6th Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

Date completed _____

- ❖ **Human sexuality is a gift from God to establish an intimate and life-giving family bond.**
CCC #2331-2333; Compendium #488; USCCA pp.406, 408-409
- ❖ **The sexual act finds its place only in a life-long marriage between a man and woman; this excludes masturbation, fornication, sex for engaged couples, “living together,” trial marriage, homosexual acts and adultery.**
CCC #2350-2353, 2360, 2380-2381, 2390-2391, 2396, 2400; Compendium #492; USCCA pp. 406-407
- ❖ **Culture has a great effect on sexual morality. Pornography, prostitution and rape totally degrade sexuality and divorce is a grave offense against the dignity of marriage.**
- ❖ CCC #2354, 2382-2385, 2396, 2400; Compendium #492, 502; USCCA pp. 407, 410-411
- ❖ **Every marriage act must be open to children; this excludes the use of artificial contraception.**
CCC #2366, 2398-2399; Compendium #495, 497-498; USCCA pp.408-410
- ❖ **Morally sound medical treatment must exclude: harming or killing any human person in the hope of helping others (as "compassionate" abortion or taking stem cells from embryos); cloning or in vitro fertilization of humans; treating patients without their informed consent; or refusing ordinary care to the infirm.**
CCC #2275; Compendium #471-472; USCCA pp. 390-394

 - Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one’s relationships with self, others and God.

 - Students will examine how social ills and injustices affect the lives of all people as well as their responsibility for others even when suffering is perceived as a global experience. Identify and appreciate special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others.

 - Students will develop a habit of daily prayer to seek guidance and discern one’s vocation.

John 8:1-13... Woman Caught in Adultery

Vocabulary: chastity, conscience, consequence, free will, human sexuality, morality, mortal sin, responsibility, sacrament, virtue



7th Commandment: You shall not steal.

Date completed _____

- ❖ **The seventh commandment calls us to be good stewards of the world God gave to us.**
- ❖ CCC # 2415, 2456; Compendium #506, 507; USCCA pp. 424
- ❖ **The search for solidarity increasingly has international implications; rich nations must work for the development of poorer nations.**
CCC #2437-2441; Compendium #518; USCCA pp. 419-425
- ❖ **To work for the common good in economic and political realities is especially the role of the Catholic laity.**
CCC #2442; Compendium #517-519; USCCA pp. 423-424, 426



- Students will discern the different kinds of commitment determined by different relationships in the community. Identify and appreciate special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others.



- Students will become aware of local and global social concerns. Realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work.

Mark 3:13-19; Luke 5:1-11, 6:12-16... The Call of the Twelve Apostles, Vocations

Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11... Service through the use of personal talents

Vocabulary: culture, responsibility

8th Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Date completed _____

- ❖ **Reputation and honor are aspects of a person's human dignity. These are injured by rash judgment, detraction, calumny, and gossip.**
CCC #2477-2479, 2507; Compendium #523; USCCA pp.429-437



- Students will create a family and classroom environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly. Identify and appreciate special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others. Develop the skills necessary for building relationships and community life, such as trust, self-disclosure, and communication.

Mark 1:40-45... Jesus compassion for others; Cure of Leper Wisdom 1:1-16... Justice

Vocabulary: conscience, responsibility, values, virtue




9th Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. Date completed _____

- ❖ **The moral life demands that we embrace chastity, the successful integration of sexuality within the person.**


CCC #2337-2340; Compendium #488-494; USCCA pp.405-40

- ❖ **Purity requires modesty, which recognizes and protects the dignity of the person.**

CCC #2521-2522, 2533; Compendium #529-530; USCCA pp.405-406

 - Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one's relationships with self, others and God.

 - Students will experience prayer as a deepening of personal relationship with Jesus.

 - Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

John 8:1-13... Woman Caught in Adultery


Vocabulary: chastity, conscience, consequence, human sexuality, morality, mortal sin, responsibility, values, virtue

10th Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Date completed _____

- ❖ **True Christians set their hearts on the Kingdom of heaven; this makes them detached from all material things.**

CCC#2544-47, 2551, 2556; Compendium #532; USCCA pp. 449-455

 - Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

Matthew 5:1-12... Jesus' Sermon on the Mount Vocabulary: beatitudes, Kingdom of God

- ❖ **Sin is a rupture in our relationship with God that is always an intentional choice knowingly to do evil.**

Date completed _____


CCC #1849-1850; Compendium #391-397; USCCA pp. 237, 313-313


- ❖ **There are both venial and mortal sins.**

CCC 1855; Compendium #304-306; USCCA pp. 232-238

- ❖ **We can sin by cooperating in others' sin. Sin also has a social structure.**

CCC #1868-1869; Compendium #393, 399; USCCA pp. 331

 - Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one's relationships with self, others and God.

 - Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

Mark 1:23-28... Jesus' Power over Evil Vocabulary: mortal sin, venial sin

- ❖ **Skills, such as discernment and critical evaluation, are necessary to help students identify the cultural values that have influenced them.** Date completed _____
CCC #1886-1888; Compendium #303; USCCA pp. 314-315, 320, 390



- Students will examine how social ills and injustices affect the lives of all people as well as their responsibility for others even when suffering is perceived as a global experience.



- Students will experience days of reflection and retreats as opportunities for personal spiritual growth.



- Students will become aware of local and global social concerns.

Vocabulary: culture, social justice, values

- ❖ **Subsidiarity means that nothing should be done at a higher level of society when it could be accomplished at a lower.** Date completed _____

CCC #1883-1885, 1894; Compendium #402-403; USCCA pp.326, 529

- ❖ **We have a responsibility to take part in public life.**

CCC # 1913-1915, 1926; Compendium #402, 410; USCCA pp.420-423

- ❖ **There is a Spirit-filled Catholic response to social issues such as poverty, environmental abuse, violence, and racism.**

CCC #1935-1938; Compendium #413, 510; USCCA pp. 420-424

- ❖ **Differences of “talents” are part of God’s plan and call for sharing. Sinful inequalities are contrary to the Gospel.**

CCC #1936-1938, 1946-1947; Compendium #413; USCCA pp. 426-427, 450, 453



- Students will develop a habit of daily prayer to seek guidance and discern one’s vocation.



- Students will develop ways to put into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Reflect on and participate in service opportunities for oneself within the parish and local community. Become involved in service outreach projects, clothing and food collections, and fund-raising drives.

Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11... Service Through the Use of Personal Talents

John 13:1-20... Washing of the Feet Vocabulary: corporal works of mercy, social justice



- ❖ **Catholics believe in a true merit of eternal life, due to our new life of grace.**

Date completed _____

CCC # 2009, 2026; Compendium #426, 427; USCCA pp. 161, 328-329, 336

- ❖ **Developing the moral virtues is key to living the moral life.**

CCC #1803-1809; Compendium #377-383; USCCA pp. 315-317

- ❖ **The Catholic Church has the right to teach on questions of natural law, because its observance is necessary for salvation.**

CCC #2036, 2050; Compendium #430; USCCA pp. 327-328

- ❖ **Prayer and the Eucharist are essential components of the moral life.**

CCC #1393-1395, 1811, 2340; Compendium # 429; USCCA pp. 228, 475

- ♥ - Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one's relationships with self, others and God.

- ✚ - Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

- ✚ - Students will experience various forms of prayer, such as silent meditation, prayer with Scripture, centering prayer, spontaneous prayer, formal prayer, prayer with song, and liturgy of the hours.

Exodus 10:1-17... Ten Commandments Luke 11:1-13... Jesus and the Value of Prayer

Vocabulary: grace, morality, prayer, sacrament

(The vocation classes, as well as the virtue and sacramental classes in the seventh grade curriculum of CVOL deal with topics of morality. During or following this segment would be an appropriate place to introduce the CVOL lessons Gr. 7.)

