

Diocese of Madison

Religious Education Standards

Introduction

Purpose

Religious education standards identify seven categories of expectations for the formation of youth in their Catholic faith. The PreK-8 religious education standards of the Diocese of Madison also include specific grade level competencies that every youth should know and be able to demonstrate.

Diocesan Religious Education Standards will strengthen the partnership between the primary educators of children – their parents – and the supporting educators of children – pastors, catechists, and Catholic schoolteachers. Diocesan Religious Education Standards will assist parents, catechists, and teachers to work together toward the stated learning competencies. The Standards will also allow parents, clergy, catechists, and teachers the freedom to achieve the desired learning competencies by creatively developing various and different curriculum. Developing sound curricula (choosing appropriate resources, and designing the appropriate learning process and creating the clearest lesson plan) will assure the desired leaning under each standard.

Forming our children in the Catholic faith is an honor and a privilege. However, we must acknowledge that the task of teaching just the basics of the Catholic faith to new generations of young Catholics cannot be accomplished solely through the dedicated efforts of Parish priests, catechists, and Catholic school teachers. The success of teaching the basics of our faith to the younger generation of Catholics will depend not only upon the limited amount of time spent in a parish catechetical program but also upon the extended amount of time and effort devoted to learning and practicing the faith at home.

History

As we examined religious education programs throughout the diocese, it was apparent that a rich variety of approaches and materials were in use. At the same time, there was no clear and common expectation for what constitutes a basic understanding of the Catholic faith as appropriate for grades PreK-8.

Beginning in late 1996, the Diocesan Offices for Religious Education and Catholic Schools together engaged pastors and parish staff in regional discussions concerning the need for religious education standards. With their support and encouragement the offices drafted recommendations and rationale for seven religious education standards. This draft was then taken back to the various regions of the Diocese for further discussion and editing. The next and rather challenging task was to identify the basics of the Catholic faith that would be appropriate

for children to know at their various grade levels. Again we took the draft suggestions to various regional meetings around the Diocese and sought the help and wisdom of pastors, parish Directors of Religious Education, Coordinators of Religious Education, youth ministers, principals, teachers and parents. This process took a number of years but allowed for significant input from members of the Diocesan family.

In the end, the regional hearings suggested that the specific basic competencies be identified by grade level but that parishes together with families have the freedom to move suggested grade level competencies to a different grade level if that change would more appropriately accommodate their local situation.

Relationship to the Catechism of the Catholic Church

The four parts of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* provide a ready structure and basis for sound catechesis, upon which are founded the Religious Education standards for the Diocese of Madison.

Part One of the *Catechism*, "The Profession of Faith," provides a framework which supports the efforts of the bishops, pastors, catechists, and parents to understand and to teach Sacred Scripture and the doctrine of the Church. Part Two, "The Celebration of the Christian Mystery," emphasizes worship, particularly the Sacraments. Part Three, "Life in Christ," focuses on the moral life of the Christian disciple, who lives in community and is called to service. Part Four, "Christian Prayer," helps those charged with catechesis to understand the Church's life of prayer and the importance it plays in the spiritual life of all members of the Church.

The framework of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the Religious Education Standards will be a valuable tool for teaching a basic understanding of the Catholic faith to our children.

How the Seven Religious Education Standards fit into the Four Parts of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Part One	The Profession of Faith
	1. Sacred Scripture
	2. Doctrine
Part Two	The Celebration of the Christian Mystery
	3. Sacraments
Part Three	Life in Christ
	4. Community
	5. Service
Part Four	Christian
	6. Prayer
	7. Spirituality

Note: CCC refers to *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* and all numbers following CCC refer to paragraphs.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STANDARDS

Standard 1. Sacred Scripture

Students in the Diocese of Madison will read and understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word speaking to them.

Standard 2. Doctrine

Students in the Diocese of Madison will know and understand the basic teachings of the church and how they apply to their lives.

Standard 3. Sacraments

Students in the Diocese of Madison will know and appreciate the importance of the sacraments and the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of Catholics.

Standard 4. Community

Students in the Diocese of Madison will understand and appreciate the role of the faith community – the Catholic Church – into which they have been baptized and through which they grow in faith to mature discipleship and will know what it means to have membership in the local, universal Catholic Church.

Standard 5. Service

Students in the Diocese of Madison will engage in service to and exercise responsible stewardship for the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, civic, national, global.

Standard 6. Prayer

Students in the Diocese of Madison will experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms in addition to the prayer of the sacraments.

Standard 7. Spirituality

Students in the Diocese of Madison will know how to develop a personal relationship with God.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTENT STANDARDS, CATEGORIES, AND COMPETENCIES

SACRED SCRIPTURE

Content Standard 1 – Catholic students in the Diocese of Madison will read and understand Sacred Scripture as God's word speaking to them. *CCC: 101-141, 512-741, 1961-1974*

Rationale

Since the very beginning, the church has understood Sacred Scripture as the word of God. "In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them; and the force and power in the word of God is so great that it remains the support and energy of the church, the strength of faith..., the food of the soul, the pure and perennial source of spiritual life" (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, 21). Knowing how to read, understand, and reflect on Sacred Scripture enables the believer to be in touch with God, and to use God's word as a guide for living.

Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the Holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

Performance Standard Categories

- Students will be familiar with the books of the bible and know how to locate biblical citations. *CCC 120-130.*
- Students will understand how God speaks to them through various literary forms used in the Bible. *CCC 109-119.*
- Students will understand God's message to them as contained in Sacred Scripture. *CCC 101-141.*
- Students will be able to trace the story of salvation as presented in the bible. *CCC 484-741, 1961-1986.*
- Students will be able to apply the truths of the bible to their daily lives. *CCC 131-133.*

DOCTRINE

Content Standard 2 – Catholic students in the Diocese of Madison will know and understand the basic teachings of the Church and how they apply to their lives. CCC: 27-49, 74-90, 142-1065.

Rationale

God continues to speak to his people today through the authentic teaching of the Church, which reflects on God's word, interprets it authoritatively, and expresses it truthfully in doctrine and dogma. Through Tradition, "the Church, in her doctrine, life and worship perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes" (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, 8). Knowing and understanding what the Church teaches enables the believer to live by God's word and give witness to it in all the believer says and does.

He taught them on the Sabbath and they were astonished at his teaching because he spoke with authority. (Luke 4:32)

Performance Standard Categories

- Students will illustrate a basic understanding of key Catholic dogmas. CCC: 39-73, 142-421, 422-455, 461-463, 470-741, 748-870, 949-1065.
- Students will understand the relationship between Church doctrine and their daily lives. CCC: 26-38, 456-460, 901-913.
- Students will understand how the Church has developed its dogma and doctrine over the centuries. CCC: 74-100, 871-945.
- Students will be able to describe key differences between Roman Catholic beliefs and practices and the beliefs and practices of other religions. CCC: 464-469, 811-870.

SACRAMENTS

Content Standard 3 – Catholic students in the Diocese of Madison will know and appreciate the importance of the sacraments and the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of Catholics. CCC: 1076-1690

Rationale

The Church teaches that the sacraments are necessary for salvation. In each sacrament the grace of the Holy Spirit unites us with Jesus our Savior, and enables us to partake in the divine nature of God (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 7129). Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, lead us to holiness, build up the Body of Christ, and give praise to God. Sacraments "not only presuppose faith, but by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen and express it" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 59).

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

Performance Standard Categories

- Students will be able to name, define, and describe each of the seven sacraments of the Church and will know how to participate in the celebration of each. CCC: 1066-1209, 1420-1421, 1533-1535; *Baptism: 1210-1284; Confirmation: 1285-1321; Eucharist: 1322-1419; Reconciliation: 1422-1498; Anointing of the Sick: 1499-1532; Holy Orders: 1536-1600; Matrimony: 1601-1666.*
- Students will understand that the Eucharist has a special and central place in the life of the church and in their own lives because it contains the very act of redemption which Jesus accomplished in his life, death and resurrection. CCC: 1322-1419.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of liturgical seasons and feasts. CCC: 1163-1199.
- Students will be able to use appropriate resources to plan and participate in liturgical celebrations. CCC: 1145-1162, 1273.

COMMUNITY

Content Standard 4 – Catholic students in the Diocese of Madison will understand and appreciate the role and structure of the faith community - the Catholic Church - into which they have been baptized and through which they grow in faith to mature discipleship and will know what it means to have membership in the local, universal Catholic Church. CCC: 787-791, 871-948, 1546-1570, 1730-1986, 2030-2051.

Rationale

Love of God cannot be separated from love of neighbor (cf. 1 John 4:20). Baptized into the Church, the Christian becomes a member of the one Body of Christ. As members of the Body of Christ, we no longer belong to ourselves, but to Jesus who suffered, died and rose for our salvation (cf. 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 5:15). As members of the Body of Christ, our actions (both good and bad) have an effect on the Christian community. It is together, as Church -- the Body of Christ -- that we grow to maturity in faith and become true disciples of Christ.

The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers. (Acts 9:31)

Performance Standard Categories

- Students will know the foundations of the Catholic Church and its moral teachings. CCC: 1691-2557.
- Students will apply Catholic moral teachings to their relationship with God, with others, and with self. CCC: 1730-1960.
- Students will use Catholic social justice principles to critique social structures. CCC: 1878-1948.
- Students will recognize their responsibilities as members of the Body of Christ, the Church. CCC: 787-791, 1730-1738, 1878-1948.
- Students will understand the various roles in the Church, i.e. Bishop, priest, laity, religious, ordained and non-ordained. CCC: 871-948, 1546-1570, 2030-2051.

SERVICE

Content Standard 5 – Catholic students in the Diocese of Madison will engage in service to and exercise responsible stewardship for the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, diocese, civic, national, global. *CCC: 299, 849-856, 874-948, 1699-1729, 1822-1832, 2030-2051, 2415-2418, 2443-2463*

Rationale

Faith is for service. Jesus said repeatedly: "I have come not to be served, but to serve" (cf. Mk. 10:45; Mt. 20:28). The human person needs to live in society. Society is not optional, but a requirement of human nature. Through exchange with others, mutual service and dialogue, we develop our potential, and respond to our vocations (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1879). All Christian service is an expression of love, and is performed by the Christian for the purpose of building up the Kingdom of God on earth."

Whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:43b-45)

Performance Standard Categories

- Students will understand Christian service in the light of the gospel call to love of neighbor. *CCC: 849-856, 1822-1832.*
- Students will participate in a variety of service activities as a way of demonstrating their love and care for others. *CCC: 1716-1729, 1822-1829, 2443-2463.*
- Students will exercise responsible stewardship for the gift of creation. *CCC: 299, 2415-2418, 2456.*
- Students will understand how Christian service shapes and transforms culture and society. *CCC: 849-856.*
- Students will examine the variety of Christian life-styles as ways to respond to the baptismal call to a life of service. *CCC: 874-948, 2030-2051.*

PRAYER

Content Standard 6 – Catholic students in the Diocese of Madison will experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms in addition to the prayer of the sacraments. CCC: 2558-2857.

Rationale

Prayer has been described in many different ways through the centuries, but at its most basic level, prayer is talking with God. St. Therese of Lisieux called prayer "the raising of one's mind and heart to God." "According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2562). In the experience of different forms of prayer, we discover how we best talk with God.

Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (Matthew 6:8-9)

Performance Standard Categories

- Students will learn about the rich variety of prayer forms used in the church over the centuries, including the many types of devotional prayer commonly used in the church. CCC: 2558-2857.
- Students will experience various forms of prayer. CCC: 2626-2643, 2685-2691, 2700-2719, 2761-2776.
- Students will develop and be able to describe their own style of personal prayer. CCC: 2626-2643, 2683, 2742-2745.

SPIRITUALITY

Content Standard 7 – Catholic students in the Diocese of Madison will know how to develop a personal relationship with God. CCC: 487-511, 721-726, 829, 963-975, 1691-1696, 1704-1715, 2045, 2742-2745.

Rationale

Our spirituality is our way of being in relationship with God. Each person is unique and has a unique relationship with God. The desire for God is written in the human heart, because we are created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw us to himself. Only in God will we find the truth and happiness we keep searching for (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 27). Spirituality is the response of the human person to the revelation of God's love in Christ, and consists in the loving knowledge and service of God and neighbor. It begins when God's word is accepted in faith, and it manifests itself in the expression and the development of the love of God in prayer and action. To be sure, spirituality is the thread that weaves its way through all that we believe, profess, celebrate, and respond to in life. It is the life thread that unites us to God's love and mercy. It is the life of God lived by people in the Body of Christ (cf. New Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume 73, Page 598ff).

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. (1 John 3:1)

Performance Standard Categories

- Students will be able to describe their personal relationship with God. CCC: 1691-1696, 1704-1715, 2045.
- Students will know how to deepen their spirituality. CCC: 2742-2745.
- Students will be acquainted with saints and mystics in the history of the Church and the special place of Mary among them. CCC: 487-511, 721-726, 829, 963-975.

Grade Level Performance Standards: Kindergarten

Within our kindergarten religion curriculum, students will:

GOAL 1 - SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read and understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word speaking to them.

Scripture.K.1. See and hold a Bible.

Scripture.K.2. Listen to Bible stories.

Scripture.K.3. Identify that life and all of creation are gifts from god who loves us.

Scripture.K.4. Relate how Bible stories tell about God's love for us.

GOAL 2 - DOCTRINE

Know and understand the basic teachings of the Church and how they apply to their lives.

Doctrine.K.1. Tell that God loves us and gave us the gift of life.

Doctrine.K.2. Identify that God always was and will be (God has no beginning and no end).

Doctrine.K.3. Identify Jesus as God's only Son.

Doctrine.K.4. Recognize that God sent his Son, Jesus, to teach us how to live good lives.

GOAL 3 - SACRAMENTS

Know and appreciate the centrality of the Eucharist and importance of the Sacraments in the life of Catholics.

Sacrament.K.1. Recall and talk about experiences of witnessing a Baptism.

Sacrament.K.2. Recognize that we are welcomed into the Christian community of faith at Baptism.

Sacrament.K.3. Attend parish Eucharistic Liturgy.

Sacrament.K.4. Participate in a Liturgy of the Word.

GOAL 4 - COMMUNITY

Understand and appreciate the role of the faith community - the Catholic Church - into which they have been baptized and through which they grow in faith to mature discipleship and will know what it means to have membership in the local, universal Catholic Church.

Community.K.1. Share examples of what it means to belong to a family.

Community.K.2. Share examples of what it means to belong to their school/religious instruction class.

Community.K.3. Give examples of appropriate behaviors in a community.

GOAL 5 - SERVICE

Engage in service to and exercise responsible stewardship for the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, civic, national, global.

Service.K.1. Share ways they help others.

Service.K.2. Describe responsible care for property.

Service.K.3. Express appreciation for God's creation.

GOAL 6 - PRAYER

Experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms in addition to the prayer of the Sacraments.

Prayer.K.1. Recite and demonstrate the Sign of the Cross.

Prayer.K.2. Recite a Grace before meals prayer and explain its purpose.

Prayer.K.3. Demonstrate appropriate and respectful participation during liturgy and/or prayer service.

Prayer.K.4. Tell how they pray.

Prayer.K.5. Participate in formal prayers such as the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

GOAL 7 - SPIRITUALITY

Know how to develop a personal relationship with God.

Spirituality.K.1. Identify that God is everywhere.

Spirituality.K.2. Identify that God loves them.

Grade Level Performance Standards: Grade One

Within our first grade religion curriculum, students will:

GOAL 1 - SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read and understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word speaking to them.

- Scripture.1.1. Tell that the stories read at Mass come from the Bible.
- Scripture.1.2. Demonstrate respect for the Bible as God's holy Word to us.
- Scripture.1.3. Retell the Bible stories of creation and the birth of Jesus.
- Scripture.1.4. Relate how Bible stories tell about God's love for us.
- Scripture.1.5. Tell that creation shows God's love for us.
- Scripture.1.6. Tell that the birth of Jesus shows God's love for us.

GOAL 2 - DOCTRINE

Know and understand the basic teachings of the Church and how they apply to their lives.

- Doctrine.1.1. Recognize that God is the creator of all things.
- Doctrine.1.2. Identify that God always was and will be (God has no beginning and no end).
- Doctrine.1.3. Identify that God wants us to do good and avoid evil.
- Doctrine.1.4. Tell that choosing to do what offends God and harms others is called sin.
- Doctrine.1.5. Tell that Jesus gives us the Sacrament of Reconciliation in which we ask God's forgiveness of our sins.
- Doctrine.1.6. Identify that doing good and being kind pleases God.

GOAL 3 - SACRAMENTS

Know and appreciate the centrality of the Eucharist and importance of the Sacraments in the life of Catholics.

- Sacrament.1.1. Identify that Jesus gave us the Sacraments as a way to celebrate and remember God's love for us.
- Sacrament.1.2. Tell that the Sacrament of Baptism is a celebration of welcoming us into the Christian family as followers of Jesus.
- Sacrament.1.3. Witness a parish infant Baptism and afterward talk about the celebration and the meaning of the water as the outward sign of Baptism.

GOAL 4 - COMMUNITY

Understand and appreciate the role of the faith community - the Catholic Church - into which they have been baptized and through which they grow in faith to mature discipleship and will know what it means to have membership in the local, universal Catholic Church.

- Community.1.1. Recognize that the two great commandments are love of God and love of neighbor.
- Community.1.2. Recognize that their own behavior affects others.
- Community.1.3. Discuss how they show love of God and neighbor.

GOAL 5 - SERVICE

Engage in service to and exercise responsible stewardship for the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, civic, national, global.

- Service.1.1. Listen to gospel stories and discuss how love of neighbor was shown.
- Service.1.2. Describe ways they can provide service to others.
- Service.1.3. Discuss ways to care for and respect the gift of creation.

GOAL 6 - PRAYER

Experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms in addition to the prayer of the Sacraments.

- Prayer.1.1. Recite the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.
- Prayer.1.2. Participate in the Stations of the Cross during Lent.
- Prayer.1.3. Participate in Mass prayerfully.
- Prayer.1.4. Prepare and assume different roles in communal prayer.
- Prayer.1.5. Share reasons why they pray.

GOAL 7 - SPIRITUALITY

Know how to develop a personal relationship with God.

- Spirituality.1.1. Tell ways that God shows love for them.
- Spirituality.1.2. Describe prayer as talking with God.
- Spirituality.1.3. Express appreciation for God's creation.
- Spirituality.1.4. Celebrate Mary as the Mother of Jesus.
- Spirituality.1.5. Pray.

Grade Level Performance Standards: Grade Two

Within our second grade religion curriculum, students will:

GOAL 1 - SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read and understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word speaking to them.

Scripture.2.1. Show how the index of a Bible lists all of the books as well as their page location.

Scripture.2.2. Show how the Bible is divided into two main sections: The Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) and The New Testament.

Scripture.2.3. Retell selected Bible stories: God calling Abraham and Moses; the Exodus; Moses receiving the Ten Commandments; and the Birth, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

Scripture.2.4. Tell how the Bible stories of God calling Abraham and Moses; the Exodus; the Ten Commandments; and the Birth, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus demonstrate God's love.

Scripture.2.5. Recite the Ten Commandments and tell how they help us love God and people.

GOAL 2 - DOCTRINE

Know and understand the basic teachings of the Church and how they apply to their lives.

Doctrine.2.1. Explain that sin is an offense against God and neighbor.

Doctrine.2.2. Tell the difference between Original Sin, Mortal (serious) Sin, and Venial (less serious) Sin.

Doctrine.2.3. Tell that the Holy Spirit is the spirit of God and is our helper sent to us by Jesus.

Doctrine.2.4. Describe how the Holy Spirit can help us.

Doctrine.2.5. Tell that we remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and receive his Body and Blood when we receive the Holy Eucharist.

Doctrine.2.6. Describe how sin hurts us, others, and our relationship to God.

Doctrine.2.7. Know that the term "salvation" means to be saved by the love of God.

GOAL 3 - SACRAMENTS

Know and appreciate the centrality of the Eucharist and importance of the Sacraments in the life of Catholics.

Sacrament.2.1. Recall that Sacraments are signs of God's love for us through which Jesus becomes truly present and helps us in our lives.

Sacrament.2.2. Identify the term grace as a gift of God's love which enables us to live good Christian lives.

Sacrament.2.3. Talk about the Sacrament of Reconciliation as an opportunity to say we are sorry for our sins and receive God's love and forgiveness.

Sacrament.2.4. Describe the Sacrament of Eucharist as an action in which we thankfully receive Jesus and remember His life, death, and resurrection.

Sacrament.2.5. Recall the story of the Last Supper.

Sacrament.2.6. Tell that at the consecration in the Liturgy, the bread and wine are changed into (the real presence of) the Body and Blood of Christ and offered to us as a sign of God's love.

GOAL 4 - COMMUNITY

Understand and appreciate the role of the faith community - the Catholic Church - into which they have been baptized and through which they grow in faith to mature discipleship and will know what it means to have membership in the local, universal Catholic Church.

Community.2.1. Recite the two great commandments: love of God and love of neighbor.

Community.2.2. Describe how participation in Mass and prayer unites us as one in the Body of Christ.

Community.2.3. Examine the effects of their own behavior in family and group settings.

Community.2.4. Discuss and practice ways to stand up for what is right.

Community.2.5. Describe how inappropriate behavior interferes with their relationship with God.

GOAL 5 - SERVICE

Engage in service to and exercise responsible stewardship for the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, civic, national, global.

Service.2.1. Discuss ways they can put their love for others into action (service).

Service.2.2. Participate in a group service project that provides service to those in need.

Service.2.3. Take actions that show their love of God's creation.

Service.2.4. Discuss different service ministries.

GOAL 6 - PRAYER

Experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms in addition to the prayer of the Sacraments.

Prayer.2.1. Recite an Act of Contrition.

Prayer.2.2. Recite an example of a spontaneous prayer.

Prayer.2.3. Understand the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.

Prayer.2.4. Prepare and assume different roles in communal prayer experiences in the classroom.

Prayer.2.5. Describe the difference between public and private prayer.

Prayer.2.6. Understand the meaning of personal prayer.

Prayer.2.7. Describe how prayer is essential to their relationship with God.

Prayer.2.8. Compose a personal prayer.

GOAL 7 - SPIRITUALITY

Know how to develop a personal relationship with God.

Spirituality.2.1. Listen to scriptural stories that describe God's love and power.

Spirituality.2.2. Express their love of God through prayer and action.

Spirituality.2.3. Listen to and discuss the story of Mary saying "yes" to God.

Spirituality.2.4. Suggest ways in which we can say "yes" to God.

Spirituality.2.5. Express their love for Jesus through the reception of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Grade Level Performance Standards: Grade Three

Within our third grade religion curriculum, students will:

GOAL 1 - SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read and understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word speaking to them.

Scripture.3.1. Recognize the list of Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) Books and the list of New Testament Books found in the index of a Catholic Bible.

Scripture.3.2. Describe the Old Testament as writings about God's relationship with his chosen people, the Hebrews.

Scripture.3.3. Describe the New Testament as writings about Jesus who shows us how to love God and love others

Scripture.3.4. Locate passages in the Bible according to books, chapters, and verses.

Scripture.3.5. Retell the stories of creation, the life of Jesus and his Passion, Death, and Resurrection using word, art, and/or drama.

Scripture.3.6. Identify how the writings in the Bible help us to better know, love, and serve God.

Scripture.3.7. Recite the great Commandment and how it applies to their lives.

Scripture.3.8. Identify what the Ten Commandments call us to do and not to do.

GOAL 2 - DOCTRINE

Know and understand the basic teachings of the Church and how they apply to their lives.

Doctrine.3.1. Identify that God is the Trinity – one God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Doctrine.3.2. Describe revelation and the many ways God is revealed to us. (Scripture, the Church, creation, families, people, events in life)

Doctrine.3.3. Recall that God sent Jesus to teach us how to live lovingly, justly, humbly, and prayerfully.

Doctrine.3.4. Identify that Jesus is both true God and true Man.

Doctrine.3.5. List examples of how God expresses love for us.

Doctrine.3.6. Discuss the concepts of Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory.

GOAL 3 - SACRAMENTS

Know and appreciate the centrality of the Eucharist and importance of the Sacraments in the life of Catholics.

Sacrament.3.1. Recite the names of the seven Sacraments.

Sacrament.3.2. Identify that Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are Sacraments of initiation.

Sacrament.3.3. Identify that Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are Sacraments of healing.

Sacrament.3.4. Discuss how Eucharist helps us remember and be thankful for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Sacrament.3.5. Participate in the celebration of the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time.

GOAL 4 - COMMUNITY

Understand and appreciate the role of the faith community - the Catholic Church - into which they have been baptized and through which they grow in faith to mature discipleship and will know what it means to have membership in the local, universal Catholic Church.

Community.3.1. Recite and discuss the meaning of the two great commandments.

Community.3.2. Recite and discuss the meaning of the first three commandments.

Community.3.3. Describe how sinful acts interfere with their relationships with God, others, and self.

Community.3.4. Relate appropriate Catholic responses to situations of social injustice (homelessness, hunger, poverty) and practice ways to stand up for what is right.

GOAL 5 - SERVICE

Engage in service to and exercise responsible stewardship for the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, civic, national, global.

Service.3.1. Tell stories from the gospels of people serving others.

Service.3.2. Report on ways they can be of service in their families and in their schools.

Service.3.3. Plan and participate in a service activity.

Service.3.4. Give examples of different kinds of work people perform and how that work helps other people, (parents' work at home, farmers, police, artists).

GOAL 6 - PRAYER

Experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms in addition to the prayer of the Sacraments.

Prayer.3.1. Read an example of scriptural prayer.

Prayer.3.2. Participate in praying the Rosary.

Prayer.3.3. Describe the purpose of the Stations of the Cross.

Prayer.3.4. Assume different roles in communal prayer experiences.

Prayer.3.5. Compose prayers for different occasions (e.g. birthdays, taking a trip, beginning a new school year).

Prayer.3.6. Compose their own morning and evening prayers.

Prayer.3.7. Identify occasions of community prayer.

Prayer.3.8. Explain the importance of private prayer.

GOAL 7 - SPIRITUALITY

Know how to develop a personal relationship with God.

Spirituality.3.1. Participate in the celebrations of the liturgical seasons.

Spirituality.3.2. Make a prayer journal and use it to write their thoughts to God.

Spirituality.3.3. Participate in a Lenten reflection on the Stations of the Cross.

Grade Level Performance Standards: Grade Four

Within our fourth grade religion curriculum, students will:

GOAL 1 - SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read and understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word speaking to them.

Scripture.4.1. Analyze and compare the terms: Testament, Scripture, Bible, Salvation, Law, Prophets, Writings, Gospel, and Epistle.

Scripture.4.2. Identify that the Hebrew Scripture (The Old Testament) is divided into three main sections: The Law, The Prophets, and The Writings.

Scripture.4.3. Identify that the New Testament is divided into two main sections: The Gospels and the Epistles.

Scripture.4.4. Read selected Psalms and discuss how they were written as songs of praise, thanks, petition, and lament (sorrow).

Scripture.4.5. Identify the Epistles as letters written to various communities of people, which encourage them to follow the teachings of Jesus.

Scripture.4.6. Identify the Gospels as stories about the "Good News" of the infinite goodness of God who became man in Jesus and brought us to salvation.

Scripture.4.7. Identify the following people and describe how God worked through them to teach His people how to trust and obey God: Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

Scripture.4.8. Explain God's covenant with Abraham.

GOAL 2 - DOCTRINE

Know and understand the basic teachings of the Church and how they apply to their lives.

Doctrine.4.1. Recognize that Jesus suffered and died for their sins.

Doctrine.4.2. Recognize that Jesus is the visible sign of God's love.

Doctrine.4.3. Recognize that the Church is the visible sign of Jesus.

Doctrine.4.4. Identify and explain the Church as the "People of God" and the "Mystical Body of Christ".

Doctrine.4.5. Explain how the "People of God" (the Church) help one another to live as disciples of Jesus.

Doctrine.4.6. Describe how the Holy Spirit guides the Church.

GOAL 3 - SACRAMENTS

Know and appreciate the centrality of the Eucharist and importance of the Sacraments in the life of Catholics.

Sacrament.4.1. Identify that Matrimony and Holy Orders are Sacraments of service (vocation).

Sacrament.4.2. Tell why Eucharist has a special and central place in the life of the Church.

Sacrament.4.3. Tour the liturgical worship space and identify objects by name, location, and purpose (i.e. sanctuary, altar, tabernacle, crucifix, baptismal font, stained glass, sacramentary, lectionary, ambo/lectern/pulpit, Paschal candle, hymnal, votive candles, statues).

GOAL 4 - COMMUNITY

Understand and appreciate the role of the faith community - the Catholic Church - into which they have been baptized and through which they grow in faith to mature discipleship and will know what it means to have membership in the local, universal Catholic Church.

Community.4.1. Practice the Corporal Works of Mercy (Mt. 25:31-46).

Community.4.2. List ways to apply the Beatitudes.

Community.4.3. Explain how Jesus' command to "love one another" applies to their own lives.

Community.4.4. Describe how all people are created in the image and likeness of God.

Community.4.5. Give examples or experiences of what it means to belong to the Body of Christ.

Community.4.6. Recognize that the Church has laws that help to give order to their lives and the Christian community.

GOAL 5 - SERVICE

Engage in service to and exercise responsible stewardship for the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, civic, national, global.

Service.4.1. Explain how service is a way to respond to the gospel call to love your neighbor.

Service.4.2. Identify ways they can serve others.

Service.4.3. Plan, participate in, and evaluate a service activity.

Service.4.4. Demonstrate and/or report on responsible stewardship through the care of personal belongings.

Service.4.5. Apply appropriate strategies of stewardship for the global environment such as conservation of resources, recycling, cleaning up litter, etc.

GOAL 6 - PRAYER

Experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms in addition to the prayer of the Sacraments.

Prayer.4.1. Define the term *creed*.

Prayer.4.2. Recite the Apostles Creed and explain its purpose.

Prayer.4.3. Tell the meaning of The Act of Contrition.

Prayer.4.4. Define prayer, identify the four basic categories of prayer (praise, petition, thanksgiving, contrition), and give examples of each.

Prayer.4.5. Prepare and assume different roles in communal prayer experiences in the Liturgy of the Mass.

Prayer.4.6. Describe the importance and meaning of different kinds of prayer in their lives.

Prayer.4.7. Compose their own prayers.

Prayer.4.8. Make a plan or schedule that shows how they can (or do) pray on their own.

GOAL 7 - SPIRITUALITY

Know how to develop a personal relationship with God.

Spirituality.4.1. Identify a patron saint and tell about that saint's life and good deeds.

Spirituality.4.2. Describe what it means to be spiritual.

Spirituality.4.3. Explain the rules for fasting and abstinence and their purpose.

Spirituality.4.4. Participate in a Lenten reflection on the Stations of the Cross.

Grade Level Performance Standards: Grade Five

Within our fifth grade religion curriculum, students will:

GOAL 1 - SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read and understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word speaking to them.

Scripture.5.1. Recognize the first five books of the Bible as describing the law governing the daily lives of the Hebrews.

Scripture.5.2. Recognize that the terms: the Law, the Torah, and the Pentateuch all refer to the first five books of the Bible.

Scripture.5.3. Discuss how God speaks to us through the stories, historical accounts, and laws found in the Pentateuch.

Scripture.5.4. Discuss the meaning of God's message in selected Sunday liturgical readings.

Scripture.5.5. Identify the following people and describe how God worked through them to teach his people how to live: Moses, Miriam, Aaron, Joshua, Deborah, Samson, Samuel, Saul, David, and Solomon.

Scripture.5.6. Give examples of modern day prophets.

Scripture.5.7. Share ways they might serve as prophets in today's world.

GOAL 2 - DOCTRINE

Know and understand the basic teachings of the Church and how they apply to their lives.

Doctrine.5.1 Define the term Messiah.

Doctrine.5.2 Discuss that Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah.

Doctrine.5.3 Distinguish between Christian and non-Christian.

Doctrine.5.4 Explain that the purpose of a Christian life is to know, love, and serve God and to live forever with Him in Heaven.

Doctrine.5.5. Describe how the community of the Church (our families, friends, priests, religious, laity, bishops, pope) is a gift, which expresses God's love and care for us.

Doctrine.5.6 Define the term "revelation" as used by the Catholic Church.

Doctrine.5.7 Give examples of God's revelation to the people down through the ages.

Doctrine.5.8. Explain the meaning of "communion of saints".

GOAL 3 - SACRAMENTS

Know and appreciate the centrality of the Eucharist and importance of the Sacraments in the life of Catholics.

Sacrament.5.1. Review and discuss the different parts of the Mass.

Sacrament.5.2. Examine Holy Orders as a Sacrament of service (vocation).

Sacrament.5.3. List and explain the seasons of the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time).

GOAL 4 - COMMUNITY

Understand and appreciate the role of the faith community - the Catholic Church - into which they have been baptized and through which they grow in faith to mature discipleship and will know what it means to have membership in the local, universal Catholic Church.

Community.5.1. Discuss the consequences of sin in their own lives and in the life of their community.

Community.5.2. Share stories that demonstrate how to live their faith at home, work, school, and when socializing.

Community.5.3. Identify ways that they experience belonging to the Body of Christ.

Community.5.5. Recite and discuss the meaning of the last seven Commandments.

GOAL 5 - SERVICE

Engage in service to and exercise responsible stewardship for the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, civic, national, global.

Service.5.1. Describe gospel passages that show Jesus as a person of service.

Service.5.2. Develop personal strategies for providing service to their family and their neighbors.

Service.5.3. Participate in a group service project and discuss its purpose.

Service.5.4. Define the term stewardship.

Service.5.5. Discuss the ways in which service can be a career and/or a lifestyle.

GOAL 6 - PRAYER

Experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms in addition to the prayer of the Sacraments.

Prayer.5.1. Practice meditative prayer.

Prayer.5.2. Participate in praying the Litany of the Saints.

Prayer.5.3. Describe what prayer means to them and why they pray.

Prayer.5.4. Identify places where Jesus prayed and places where they pray.

Prayer.5.5. Discuss difficulties and temptations in prayer and strategies to overcome them.

GOAL 7 - SPIRITUALITY

Know how to develop a personal relationship with God.

Spirituality.5.1. Identify various saints and describe what they most admire about those saints.

Spirituality.5.2. Explore how Sacramentals (holy objects such as holy water, palms, candles, ashes, rosary, medals, scapulars, crucifixes, images, statues) focus their attention and help develop their spiritual life.

Spirituality.5.3. Practice participation in liturgical celebrations and use appropriate gestures, postures, and responses.

Grade Level Performance Standards: Grade Six

Within our sixth grade religion curriculum, students will:

GOAL 1 - SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read and understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word speaking to them.

Scripture.6.1. Read and discuss selections from Scripture which are examples of various literary forms: history, poetry, lists, prayer, letters, and parables.

Scripture.6.2. Identify the names and general purpose of the historical books of the Hebrew Scriptures (The Old Testament) Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings.

Scripture.6.3. Identify the names and general purpose of the prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures (The Old Testament).

Scripture.6.4. Describe how God uses the prophets to speak to both the Hebrews of old and of us today.

Scripture.6.5. Discuss how selected Sunday readings apply to their life.

Scripture.6.6. Identify and describe the message of the following prophets: Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, and Elijah.

GOAL 2 - DOCTRINE

Know and understand the basic teachings of the Church and how they apply to their lives.

Doctrine.6.1. Explain that the word *creed* means a pledge of belief.

Doctrine.6.2. Discuss what *to believe* means.

Doctrine.6.3. Explain that "faith" is our lifetime response to God who reveals himself to us. (CCC #26)

Doctrine.6.4. Recite the Apostles' Creed. (See CCC, pages 49-50 for comparison of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.)

Doctrine.6.5. Identify that the Hebrew Scriptures (The Old Testament) are honored as the Holy Word of God by both Jews and Christians.

GOAL 3 - SACRAMENTS

Know and appreciate the centrality of the Eucharist and importance of the Sacraments in the life of Catholics.

Sacrament.6.1. Define and discuss the meaning of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sacrament.6.2. Explore the connections between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation (theology, ritual, and outward signs).

Sacrament.6.3. Describe the ritual and explain the meaning of the consecration of the bread and wine (gestures, prayers, and theology).

Sacrament.6.4. Describe ways to prepare for the celebration of the Mass (reflect on readings prior to Mass, abide by rules for fasting, reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus).

GOAL 4 - COMMUNITY

Understand and appreciate the role of the faith community - the Catholic Church - into which they have been baptized and through which they grow in faith to mature discipleship and will know what it means to have membership in the local, universal Catholic Church.

Community.6.1. Discuss the consequences of sin in the larger global community.

Community.6.2. Give examples of the contributions of laity in the Church and community.

Community.6.3. Discuss the roles of ordained clergy and non-ordained religious in today's church.

Community.6.4. Give examples of the Church's contemporary missionary service in the United States and in other countries.

Community.6.5. Explain what the Catholic Church means by the need to "form one's conscience"

Community.6.6. Select challenging moral issues and dramatize how Catholics ought to respond to them.

GOAL 5 - SERVICE

Engage in service to and exercise responsible stewardship for the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, civic, national, global.

Service.6.1. Identify how the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy are examples of putting their faith into action.

Service.6.2. Participate in a group service project in the community (poor, elderly, ill, disabled) and report on its effects.

Service.6.3. Compile a list of services they perform in their families.

Service.6.4. Discuss the various possibilities for service within the vocations of the single, married, religious, and ordained.

Service.6.5. Report on the contributions of Christian artists or musicians to the Church and society.

GOAL 6 - PRAYER

Experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms in addition to the prayer of the Sacraments.

Prayer.6.1. Explain the purpose of both private (personal) prayer and communal prayer.

Prayer.6.2. Give examples of communal prayer.

Prayer.6.3. Describe the purpose of the Litany of the Saints.

Prayer.6.4. Prepare and assume different roles in a communal prayer experience.

Prayer.6.5. Keep a record of how and when they pray on their own during Lent.

Prayer.6.6. Discuss the role of vigilance in prayer to overcome difficulties.

GOAL 7 - SPIRITUALITY

Know how to develop a personal relationship with God.

Spirituality.6.1. Discuss Chastity as the virtue that provides a way for a person to honor their sexuality as a special gift from God.

Spirituality.6.2. Regularly practice an examination of conscience.

Spirituality.6.3. Participate in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Spirituality.6.4. Set aside uninterrupted time for prayer.

Grade Level Performance Standards: Grade Seven

Within our seventh grade religion curriculum, students will:

GOAL 1 - SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read and understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word speaking to them.

Scripture.7.1. Explain the meaning of the term "salvation history."

Scripture.7.2. Identify that there are 46 Books of the Hebrew Scriptures (The Old Testament) and 27 Books of the New Testament.

Scripture.7.3. Write their own proverb, psalm, parable, epistle, or historical account of God acting in their life.

Scripture.7.4. Discuss how selected Sunday readings apply to their life.

Scripture.7.5. Identify the following people and explain their role in salvation history: Mary, Joseph, Jesus, John the Baptist, Herod the Great, the 12 Apostles, Judas, Peter, Paul, and Stephen.

Scripture.7.6. Describe the following New Testament events and explain their significance in salvation history: Birth of Jesus, Jesus' Baptism, Jesus calling His apostles to help Him spread the Good News, Jesus' miracles, Jesus' Passion-Death-Resurrection, the institution of the Sacraments, Pentecost and the Holy Spirit, the institution of the Church.

GOAL 2 - DOCTRINE

Know and understand the basic teachings of the Church and how they apply to their lives.

Doctrine.7.1. Examine the Nicene Creed and explain each article of faith that this creed professes.

Doctrine.7.2. Define and discuss the term *redemption* as used by the Catholic Church.

Doctrine.7.3. Define and discuss the term *grace* as used by the Catholic Church.

Doctrine.7.4. Describe or dramatize how the "grace" received through the Sacraments strengthens us to grow in holiness and to live life with greater peace, love, and compassion.

Doctrine.7.5. Explain the role of the Apostles before and after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Doctrine.7.6. Explain the steps involved in developing an "informed moral conscience."

Doctrine.7.7. Identify that the unique origin of the Roman Catholic Church is rooted in Jesus' commissioning of Peter to be the head of the Apostles and unifier of the Church.

Doctrine.7.8. Identify some of the key differences between the Roman Catholic Church and various Protestant denominations.

GOAL 3 - SACRAMENTS

Know and appreciate the centrality of the Eucharist and importance of the Sacraments in the life of Catholics.

Sacrament.7.1. Explain that the Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrates God's healing and forgiveness of our sins.

Sacrament.7.2. Discuss the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick as an opportunity to bring Jesus' healing comfort and strength to those who are seriously ill, elderly, or in danger of death.

Sacrament.7.3. Identify and discuss Marriage and Holy Orders as the sacraments of commitment in which the Church celebrates two special ways that people serve others by sharing their gifts.

Sacrament.7.4. Explain that the word *ordain* means to "set aside" in order to serve the Church in a certain way, as a deacon, priest, or bishop.

GOAL 4 - COMMUNITY

Understand and appreciate the role of the faith community - the Catholic Church - into which they have been baptized and through which they grow in faith to mature discipleship and will know what it means to have membership in the local, universal Catholic Church.

Community.7.1. Describe the mission of Catholic laity in the world.

Community.7.2. Discuss the historical contributions of various religious orders in the United States as well as their present day efforts to carry out their mission.

Community.7.3. Evaluate issues of homelessness, hunger, poverty, and illiteracy found in their community in light of Church teachings.

Community.7.4. Identify and explain "The Precepts of the Catholic Church" (CCC 2041-2043).

Community.7.5. Identify various Protestant faith traditions and examine their origin (Lutheran, Episcopalian, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian).

GOAL 5 - SERVICE

Engage in service to and exercise responsible stewardship for the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, civic, national, global.

Service.7.1. Discuss Jesus' call for them to serve others in light of the Beatitudes.

Service.7.2. Participate in group service projects that address global issues.

Service.7.3. Discuss the services they provide in their families and/or classrooms.

Service.7.4. Identify the difficulties and challenges in today's culture of putting their faith into action (service).

Service.7.5. Discuss how their own unique talents can be used in serving others.

Service.7.6. Research and discuss the role of service in the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders.

GOAL 6 - PRAYER

Experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms in addition to the prayer of the Sacraments.

Prayer.7.1. Explain the meaning of the seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer.

Prayer.7.2. Prepare and assume different roles in a communal prayer and/or liturgy.

Prayer.7.3. Plan and implement a daily program of personal prayer during Advent and Lent.

Prayer.7.4. Discuss how trust in God is the basis for prayers of petition.

GOAL 7 - SPIRITUALITY

Know how to develop a personal relationship with God.

Spirituality.7.1. Practice silent reflection on selected religious themes and record their thoughts in writing.

(Examples of religious themes are God's Love, the Crucifixion, God's Gift of Creation)

Spirituality.7.2. Identify the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Spirituality.7.4. Discuss contemporary literature that has a spiritual message.

Spirituality.7.5. Discuss contemporary music that has a spiritual message.

Grade Level Performance Standards: Grade Eight

Within our eighth grade religion curriculum, students will:

GOAL 1 - SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read and understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word speaking to them.

Scripture.8.1. Locate any chapter and verse of the Bible upon request.

Scripture.8.2. Identify five literary forms used in the Bible and explain the value of using these various literary forms to deliver God's message to His people (see Grade 6 for literary forms).

Scripture.8.3. Trace how the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Scripture.8.4. Explain what it means to believe that we are saved by Jesus.

Scripture.8.5. Describe how the Bible is a collection of many books describing the history of salvation written under God's inspiration.

Scripture.8.6. Describe the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

GOAL 2 - DOCTRINE

Know and understand the basic teachings of the Church and how they apply to their lives.

Doctrine.8.1. Explain the following terms: *Trinity, Holy Spirit, Messiah, Salvation, Redemption, Savior, Revelation, Church, the Immaculate Conception, Mary – Intercessor before God, Mary – Mother of the Church, Mary – First Disciple of Jesus.*

Doctrine.8.2. Discuss the implications for their lives of believing in Jesus as the Son of God and their Savior.

Doctrine.8.3. Discuss the courage and faith of Mary as she said "yes" to the Angel Gabriel's announcement and what her example means for us.

Doctrine.8.4. Research the origins and outcomes of the Councils of Jerusalem, Nicea, and Trent in the development of doctrine.

Doctrine.8.5. Explain the terms *heresy* and *heretic*.

Doctrine.8.6. Discuss the meaning and implications of our belief that the desire for God is rooted deep within every person and that God never ceases to draw us to Himself. (CCC #27)

GOAL 3 - SACRAMENTS

Know and appreciate the centrality of the Eucharist and importance of the Sacraments in the life of Catholics.

Sacrament.8.1. Discuss that sacramental actions and symbols originated in Jewish rituals.

Identify a sign for each Sacrament and describe what each Sacrament celebrates (For example: Baptism – Water; Confirmation – Oil of Chrism; Eucharist – Bread and Wine).

Sacrament.8.2. Explain the rituals and symbols associated with the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

Sacrament.8.3. Identify that the Mass is a celebration which has five movements or sections (Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Communion Rite, Concluding Rite).

Sacrament.8.4. Participate in a Seder Meal and discuss similarities between the Seder and Eucharist.

GOAL 4 - COMMUNITY

Understand and appreciate the role of the faith community - the Catholic Church - into which they have been baptized and through which they grow in faith to mature discipleship and will know what it means to have membership in the local, universal Catholic Church.

Community.8.1. Describe the roles and mission of deacons, priests, bishops, archbishops, cardinals, and the Pope.

Community.8.2. Discuss strategies for dealing with thoughts and actions that are in conflict with Church teachings.

Community.8.3. Identify ways they can be involved in appropriate Catholic responses to situations of social injustice in their community.

Community.8.4. Explain their responsibility to call others to know, love, and understand Jesus.
Community.8.5. Explain the Catholic Church's teaching on human sexuality as a gift from God.

GOAL 5 - SERVICE

Engage in service to and exercise responsible stewardship for the various communities to which they belong: family, school, parish, civic, national, global.

Service.8.1. Discuss what it means for a Catholic to "walk the talk."

Service.8.2. Discuss service to "neighbor" in light of the gospel story of the Good Samaritan.

Service.8.3. Participate in parish service programs such as the Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Coats for Kids (if there is no service parish program, start one).

Service.8.4. Report on service projects they are involved in and how that service demonstrates love and care for others.

Service.8.5. Define good stewardship and explain how it is a way of putting their faith into action.

Service.8.6. Describe what their participation in service projects has taught them.

Service.8.7. Minister to the needs of peers in a manner appropriate to their talents and gifts.

GOAL 6 - PRAYER

Experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms in addition to the prayer of the Sacraments.

Prayer.8.1. Take leadership roles in working with students at other grade levels in preparing and directing a communal prayer service or liturgy.

Prayer.8.2. Evaluate their practice of personal prayer and describe how they will make changes that would strengthen their prayer life.

Prayer.8.3. Discuss how perseverance in prayer is a necessity for Christian life.

GOAL 7 - SPIRITUALITY

Know how to develop a personal relationship with God.

Spirituality.8.1. Read, discuss, and meditate on selected readings from contemporary spiritual writers (Thomas Merton, Mother Teresa, Joyce Rupp, Dorothy Day).

Spirituality.8.2. View, discuss, and meditate on selected traditional and contemporary artwork that could be considered spiritual.

Spirituality.8.3. Identify and explain each of the Theological Virtues (Faith, Hope, and Charity).

Spirituality.8.4. Explain how the practice of each of the Moral Virtues strengthens their spiritual life.

Spirituality.8.5. Practice the Moral (Cardinal) Virtues (Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude).

Spirituality.8.6. Suggest experiences in people's lives that could be celebrated through some ritual that honors the sacredness of the occasion. (birth, a family reunion, moving into a new home, recovery from illness)