

Guidelines for Curriculum

Grades 1-6

Implemented in the Diocese of Beaumont - July 1, 1998

The Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education has developed these guidelines in response to requests by pastors, DRE/CRE's, and the people of the Diocese of Beaumont.

The formulation of *Guidelines for Curriculum* for Grades 1 – 6 follows the outline of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* by dividing the curriculum into four areas:

1. Our Faith Believed: Doctrine-Message
2. Our Faith Celebrated: Sacramental Life in Community
3. Our Faith Lived: Our Moral Life and the Church's Social Justice Teaching Leading to Mission – Service Through Action
4. Our Faith Prayed

Our Faith Believed Doctrine-Message

This area focuses on the beliefs of the Catholic faith as found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. These beliefs are found in our Creed and are centered on Jesus Christ and the Mystery of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Spirit.

Our Faith Celebrated Sacramental Life in Community

This area focuses on the Church, as the People of God, which celebrates the sacred action of God in our lives as community through the Seven Sacraments.

Our Faith Lived Our Moral Life and the Church's Social Justice Teaching Leading to Mission - Service through Action

This area focuses on Jesus' challenge to his disciples, and to us today to live the moral life as found in the Commandments and Beatitudes. Likewise, we are called to live the faith we profess and to bring about the kingdom of God through our actions. It also suggests specific ways to live what has been learned.

Our Faith Prayed

This area focuses on our prayer life as Catholics which includes both those formal prayers that enable us to participate in the prayer life of the community, and those informal ways of praying that are part of our tradition.

Grade 1

Theme: Introduction to the Catholic faith.

Grade 1 introduces the student to the Catholic faith. It gives an overview of the basic beliefs of our faith, beginning with the Mystery of the Trinity and who God is as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The students begin to learn about Jesus – who he is, his life among us, and his death and resurrection. They are also introduced to the sacraments, especially Baptism, Eucharist, and Reconciliation.

Key Concepts

Creation

The Blessed Trinity – God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Mary and the Saints

The Bible

The Church Year

The Church

The Sacraments

Our Faith Believed Doctrine - Message

Creation

1. God created the world.
2. We learn about God through creation.

The Blessed Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Trinity or Blessed Trinity is three persons in one God.

God the Father

1. God the Father is the first person of the Trinity.
2. God is a loving Father.
3. God the Father cares for us.
4. God the Father sent Jesus to us.

God the Son

1. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity.
2. Jesus is the Son of the Father.
3. Jesus is divine.
4. Jesus is the son of Mary and Joseph.
5. Jesus is human.
6. Jesus helps us to know God the Father.

7. Jesus came to save us so that we can have new life – eternal happiness with him in heaven.

God the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.
2. The Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit to us.
3. The Holy Spirit is the love of God with us, and the life of God within us, which is called grace.
4. The Holy Spirit is our helper.
5. The Holy Spirit guides the Church.

Mary and the Saints

1. Mary is the Mother of Jesus.
2. Mary is the Mother of God.
3. Mary is our Mother and Mother of the Church.
4. The saints are models – they show us how to love God and love others.

The Bible

1. The Bible is a holy book of God's word.
2. The Bible contains the story of Jesus' life and the stories Jesus told.
3. Jesus told stories to help us know God.

Our Faith Celebrated Sacramental Life in Community

The Church Year

1. The Church has different times, or Seasons, during the year in which it celebrates special events in Jesus' life and our life as Church.
2. Seasons to study: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter
3. Special Feast Days to study: Feasts of Mary, Pentecost, All Saints Day

The Church

1. The Church continues Jesus' work today.
2. The Church family is made up of all the people of the past – the Saints - and the present.
3. We are the Church.
4. We become members of the Church through Baptism.

The Sacraments

1. The Sacraments are signs of God's love.
2. There are seven sacraments that the Church celebrates.

Baptism

1. Through Baptism we belong, we enter God's family – the Church.
2. Through Baptism we become children of God.

3. Through Baptism we become followers of Jesus.
4. The Signs and actions of Baptism – water, oil, candle, white garment.

Eucharist

1. At Mass we celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
2. Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” We thank God for sending Jesus.
3. God speaks to us through the readings at Mass.
4. The Eucharist is the “meal” that the Church family gathers to celebrate.
5. At the First Eucharist Jesus gave us his Body and Blood.
6. We receive Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass.

Reconciliation

1. When we disobey God and turn away from God we sin.
2. God loves and forgives us when we are sorry.
3. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we receive God’s mercy and forgiveness.

Our Faith Lived **Our Moral Life and the Church’s Social Justice Teaching** **Leading to Mission - Service through Action**

Our Moral Life

1. God created each person, and God loves each one of us; each one of us is good.
2. God gave us the gift of our bodies.
3. We accept this gift and God’s love for us by doing what is good for our bodies – eating, sleeping, washing, etc.

Social Justice Teaching

1. God wants us to care for all of God’s creation, because all creation is good.

Suggested Action: Do a class project, such as plant flowers, clean up an area around the church.

Our Faith Prayed

Prayers to Know

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Glory to the Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Our Father

Suggested Informal Prayer

Grade 1 Prayer Service thanking God for all of creation. Service can focus on our five senses and how we experience God’s creation through our senses of taste, touch, smell, sight, and hearing.

Grade 2

Theme: Jesus Christ

Grade 2 focuses on Jesus Christ and explores in more depth both the divinity and humanity of Jesus, as Son of God and Son of Mary. It also looks at his mission on earth and how he taught us to love God, self, and others. The sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are also examined in depth.

Key Concepts

The Blessed Trinity

Jesus

Mary and the Saints

The Sacraments

The Church

The Church Year

The Ten Commandments/Great Commandment/Beatitudes

Conscience and Sin

Our Faith Believed Doctrine – Message

The Blessed Trinity

The Blessed Trinity (Holy Trinity) is one God, three divine persons.

Jesus

Who Jesus Is

1. Jesus is the Son of God.
2. Jesus is divine.
3. Jesus is Savior, Lord, Christ, Messiah, the Good Shepherd, Teacher.
4. Jesus is the son of Mary and Joseph, and belonged to the Holy Family.
5. Jesus is human.

Jesus' life and mission

1. Jesus helps us to know the Father.
2. Jesus helps us to know that God loves us.
3. Jesus suffered and died for us.
4. Jesus rose from the dead to new life.
5. Jesus saved us from sin and death, and gives us eternal life.
6. Jesus left us the Church.
7. Jesus gives us life through the Sacraments.

Mary and the Saints

1. God chose Mary to be the Mother of Jesus.
2. The angel Gabriel announced God's choice to Mary.
3. Mary said "yes" to God, and thus became the Mother of Jesus.
4. Before he died Jesus gave Mary to us to be our Mother.
5. Overview of the major feasts of Mary: Mary, Mother of God (January 1st), Annunciation (March 25th), Visitation (May 31st), Assumption (August 15th), Immaculate Conception (December 8th), Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12th).
6. Mary and the saints are models, holy people who teach us how to live with love.
7. We are all called to be saints - called to say "yes" to God and to live holy lives.

Our Faith Celebrated Sacramental Life in Community

The Sacraments

1. God shares life with us in the loving relationship called grace.
2. We celebrate our relationship with God/Jesus/Holy Spirit through the Sacraments.
3. The Church celebrates seven Sacraments:
 - a. Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist are Sacraments of Initiation
 - b. Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick are Sacraments of Healing
 - c. Matrimony, Holy Orders are Sacraments of Service

Baptism

1. Baptism is the first sacrament we receive.
2. Through Baptism we become members of the Church.

Eucharist

1. Jesus is the Bread of Life.
2. At the Last Supper Jesus gave himself to us as the Bread of Life.
3. Jesus shares himself with us through the Eucharist.
4. At Mass we thank God for sending Jesus to us.
5. At Mass we celebrate Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
6. The Mass is a special meal of the People of God.
7. At Mass the bread and wine are changed into Jesus' Body and Blood.
8. When we receive Holy Communion, we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus.
9. Overview of the parts of the Mass contained in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Reconciliation

1. When we are sorry for choosing to sin, we receive God's forgiveness and mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
2. Reconciliation means "coming back into relationship."
3. Overview of the Rite of Reconciliation and meaning of different parts: examination of conscience, confession, penance, act of contrition, absolution.

4. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation the priest acts in the place of Jesus and the Church.

The Church

1. The Church is the People of God.
2. In the Church there are parishes – local gatherings of the People of God.
3. In the Church there are different ministries – all who carry out the mission of Jesus:
 - a. ordained ministries – bishop, priest, deacon
 - b. members of religious communities – sisters, brothers
 - c. lay people.

The Church Year

1. The Church celebrates different seasons of during the year to help us prepare for Jesus.
2. There are special feasts day that celebrate events in Jesus' and the saints' lives.
3. Seasons and feasts to cover: Feast of All Saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

Our Faith Lived Our Moral Life and the Church's Social Justice Teaching Leading to Mission - Service through Action

The Ten Commandments/Great Commandment/Beatitudes

1. The Ten Commandments tell us what God wants us to do – they are God's laws of love.
2. The first three Commandments show us how to love God.
3. The last seven Commandments show us how to love others and ourselves.
4. Jesus taught us that the Ten Commandments are based on the Great Commandment, which tells us to love God, and to love others as we love ourselves.
5. The Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment help us to make good, loving choices.
6. The Beatitudes are “blessings,” ways Jesus gave us to be truly happy and loving.

Conscience and Sin

1. God gives us a conscience, which is the ability to know the difference between right and wrong.
2. God gave us free will to make choices.
3. Right choices/actions are good.
4. Wrong choices/actions are sinful.
5. Sin is freely choosing to turn away from God's love and do what we know is wrong.

6. Mortal sins are very serious sins, which completely cut us off from God's love.
7. Venial sins are less serious sins that harm our relationship with God.

Our Moral Life

1. Jesus taught us that we must love God, others and ourselves.
2. Our bodies are holy, and like Jesus they will live forever.
3. We express our feelings towards others and ourselves by how we take care of ourselves and treat others.
4. We should respect and care for our bodies and be concerned about the needs of others because everyone is a child of God.

Social Justice Teaching

1. Jesus worked for justice and peace.
2. Social Justice is the effort of the Church to change unjust conditions in the world.
3. The Bishops write letters to teach us how to work for justice and peace.
4. We are all called to work for justice and peace.
5. Working for justice and peace mean respecting the dignity of every human person.
6. Some people who are poor are in need of food. Working for justice and peace means helping them to have food.

Suggested Action

- As a class, collect food for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Give it to:
- a. the Saint Vincent de Paul Society or local soup kitchen.
 - b. provide it for a parish family in need.

Our Faith Prayed

Required Prayers

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Glory to the Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Our Father
5. Act of Contrition
6. Mass responses
7. Introduce children to the Rosary

Suggested Informal Prayer Services

1. Who Jesus is – the many titles we give to Jesus
2. The parables of Jesus – focusing on the Kingdom of God
3. The stories of Jesus - focusing on forgiveness

Grade 3

Theme: The Catholic Church - Community

Grade 3 examines the Catholic Church on many levels – parish, diocese, and worldwide. It looks at the Four Marks of the Church and how we, as the Church, are called to reflect in our lives what it means to be One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. The students will explore the mission of the Church and also review the Seven Sacraments as experiences in which the community worships and celebrates God’s loving presence.

Key Concepts

The Blessed Trinity
Jesus
Mary and the Saints
The Sacraments
The Church
The Church Year

Our Faith Believed Doctrine – Message

The Blessed Trinity

1. The Blessed Trinity is a community of Love: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. God created us to be part of a community – our family.
3. God called the people of the Old Testament and calls us to have a covenant relationship with God.
4. Jesus left us a community to belong to – the Church.
5. The Holy Spirit came to the disciples on the first Pentecost.
6. The Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today.
7. The Holy Spirit comes to us at Baptism and Confirmation.

Jesus

1. Jesus is the Messiah – the promised One.
2. Jesus gathered his first disciples into a community, which became the Church.
3. Jesus calls us to be his friends and disciples.
4. Jesus gathers us into the Church through the Sacraments.
5. Jesus brings us freedom through the New Covenant of his death and resurrection – the Paschal Mystery.

Mary and the Saints

1. Mary is the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God, and the Mother of the Church.

2. The special community of holy people - past, present, and future - who live as God wants them to is called the Communion of Saints.
3. Some saints died for Jesus, and are called martyrs.

Our Faith Celebrated Sacramental Life in Community

The Sacraments

1. God shares life with us in the loving relationship called grace.
2. We celebrate our relationship with God/Jesus/Holy Spirit through seven Sacraments.
3. A review of each of the seven Sacraments:
 - a. We enter the Church community through the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
 - b. The Sacraments of Healing restore us to the Church community - Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
 - d. Through the Sacraments of Service (Vocation) - Matrimony, Holy Orders – we share our talents with the Church Community.

The Church

1. The Church is the People of God.
2. The Church is the Body of Christ.
3. The Church is the Family of Jesus.
4. The Church began on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples of Jesus.
5. The Holy Spirit guides the Church today.
6. The Four Marks of the Church are One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic.
7. “One” reflects unity, and means that all Jesus’ followers are united with him and with one another in the Holy Spirit.
8. “Holy” means the way we are called to live to reflect the holiness of God in all that we do in our lives.
9. “Catholic” means universal – that the Church is open to all people.
10. “Apostolic” means that the Church is built on the teaching of the Apostles.
11. The Mission of the Church – our mission – is to continue the work of Jesus in the world today, to serve others, and to spread the Good News of God’s Kingdom.
12. The Church is an institution with different roles of service and leadership.
 - a. The Pope – Bishop of Rome, serves, unites, and leads all Catholics throughout the world. The pope is the successor of Peter.
 - b. Bishops – serve, unite, and lead Catholics in a diocese. A diocese is a gathering of parishes around the bishop.
 - c. Pastors – serve, unite, and lead Catholics in a parish. A parish is a local gathering of families around a pastor.
 - d. Deacons – serve Catholics in a particular parish.
13. The parish has different ministries of service – teachers, catechists, lectors, eucharistic ministers, ministers of hospitality, parish councils, committees, etc.
14. Study the seven Precepts or laws of the Church that Catholics should follow.

The Church Year

1. The Church celebrates different seasons of during the year to help us prepare for Jesus.
2. There are special feast days that celebrate events in Jesus' and the saints' lives.
3. Seasons and feasts to cover: Feast of All Saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

Our Faith Lived Our Moral Life and the Church's Social Justice Teaching Leading to Mission - Service through Action

The Law of Love/The Great Commandment/The Virtues

1. Jesus gave us the command to love God and to love others as we love ourselves.
2. Jesus tells us love our neighbor.
3. Everyone is our neighbor.
4. God gave us three virtues, or qualities to help us love God and our neighbor.
5. These virtues are Faith, Hope, and Love.
 - a. Faith makes us strong in our belief in God/Jesus.
 - b. Hope helps us trust God will be with us always, even in difficult times.
 - c. Love means that we give our heart to God and we open it up to others.

Our Moral Life

1. God created us to be in relationship with and connected with others.
2. The first "community" to which we belong is the family.
3. Through the Sacrament of Matrimony husbands and wives celebrate their love and commitment for each other.
4. They share their love for each other and are open to God's gift of children.
5. Together, with love, families build up the larger community of the Church.

Social Justice Teaching

1. The Church carries on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
2. As the Church, we are meant to carry on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
3. We do this and share the Good News of the Kingdom of God by being a witness.
4. As a witness we show by our actions God's care and love for people in need, such as the poor, ill, and lonely.

Suggested Action

1. As a class, talk about the needs of people in the parish community – people who may be ill or lonely. Perhaps there is someone the class knows who may be ill or in a nursing home.
2. Decide upon an action that the class could do to make that person(s) feel part of the Church community, even though they may be separated.
3. As a class, plan and complete the action of bringing the Good News of God's and the Church's care and concern to the person(s).

Our Faith Prayed

Required Prayers and Doctrine

Review of Grade 2 Prayers:

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Glory to the Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Our Father
5. Act of Contrition
6. Mass responses
7. Pray the Rosary

Prayers and Doctrine to Know

1. Apostles' Creed
2. The Four Marks of the Church and the meaning of each
3. The Precepts of the Church

Suggested Prayer Service

Ways for us as individuals to show in our lives, or live out, the Four Marks of the Church – how we are One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

Grade 4

Theme: Christian Morality

Grade 4 looks at the moral life we are called to live as followers of Jesus. As individuals we have the freedom to choose the kind of life we will live – whether it is a life of grace or sin. The Ten Commandments, along with Jesus’ teachings as found in the Beatitudes and the Works of Mercy, show us what it means to choose a life of grace.

Key Concepts

The Blessed Trinity
Mary and the Saints
Grace, Free Will, Conscience, Sin
Heaven, Hell, Purgatory
The Church Year
The Church
The Sacraments
Covenant/Ten Commandments/Great Commandment
Beatitudes
Works of Mercy

Our Faith Believed Doctrine – Message

The Blessed Trinity

1. The Trinity is a loving community of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. Each member of the Trinity helps us to live the life God wants us to live in different ways.
 - a. God the Father creates us to love and gives us grace – God’s life and loving presence to help us.
 - b. Jesus shows us how to live as sons and daughters of the Father.
 - c. The Holy Spirit guides us through the Seven Gifts of the Spirit – wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.
3. The Kingdom of God is God’s saving power of life and love in the world.
4. When we live and treat others with love, we bring about the Kingdom of God.

Mary and the Saints

1. The Immaculate Conception means that God prepared Mary to be the mother of Jesus by preserving her from original sin.
2. The rosary is a special prayer of the Church that helps us reflect upon our salvation through the lives of Jesus and Mary.
3. The Saints, past and present, are people who choose to love God above all things.
4. We are all called to be saints.

Grace, Free will, Conscience, Sin

1. God has given us the gifts of grace, free will and conscience.
2. Grace is God's own life within us, which we received at Baptism.
3. We grow in God's grace through reception of the sacraments.
4. Free will is the freedom to make decisions.
5. With free will we can choose to make good choices or to sin.
6. Conscience helps us to judge our actions as right or wrong.
7. Our conscience, or ability to judge right from wrong, is formed by the teachings of the Jesus – The Ten Commandments, The Law of Love, the Beatitudes, and the teachings of the Church Magisterium.
8. Sin is turning away from God.
9. Mortal sin is a complete break in our relationship with God and others.
10. There are three conditions necessary for mortal sin:
 - a. It must be a serious matter.
 - b. We must know it is seriously wrong.
 - c. We must freely choose to do it.
11. Venial sins are less serious and weaken our relationship with God and others.
12. Social sins result in social injustice, by creating unjust conditions for others.
13. Social sin reminds us that we are all related because we are all sons and daughters of God.
14. Examples of social sin are racism, discrimination, sexism.

Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, Last Judgement

1. Our lives will be judged by how well we loved, followed and lived the Commandments, Beatitudes, and Works of Mercy.
2. Heaven is everlasting happiness in God's presence.
3. Purgatory is an experience of additional purifying and preparation for heaven after our death.
4. Hell is eternal separation from God caused by a person's rejection of the covenant and refusal of God's mercy and forgiveness.
5. The Last Judgement does not change a person's judgement that is experienced at death, but marks the coming of the Kingdom of God in its fullness.

Our Faith Celebrated Sacramental Life in Community

The Church Year

1. The Church celebrates different seasons during the year to help us prepare for Jesus.
2. There are special feast days that celebrate events in Jesus' and the saints' lives.
3. Seasons and feasts to cover: Feast of All Saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

The Church

1. The Church is both Mother and Teacher.
2. As Mother, the Church gives us new life through Baptism.

3. As Teacher, the Holy Spirit guides the Church, and the Church helps us to know how to share the Good News of Jesus' message.
4. The Church teaches us through Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium.
5. The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church as found in the chief teachers of the Church – the pope and the bishops.
6. As members of the Church we should also teach others and the world about Jesus.
7. Some of the duties of Catholics are summed up in the Precepts of the Church, which help us to live as responsible members of the Church.

The Sacraments

1. We become members of the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
2. The Sacrament of Reconciliation enables us to experience God's mercy and forgiveness when we sin.

Our Faith Lived Our Moral Life and the Church's Social Justice Teaching Leading to Mission - Service through Action

Covenant/The Ten Commandments/Great Commandment

1. God established a covenant – a sacred agreement based on a loving relationship with the people of Israel.
2. This covenant is reflected in the Ten Commandments
3. The first three Commandments show us how we should relate with love to God.
4. The last seven Commandments show us how we should relate with love to others.
5. Study each of the Ten Commandments, and understand their meaning for today.
6. When Jesus came he gave us the Great Commandment – love God and others as Jesus loves us - and taught us that this is the basis of all we do.
7. Living a moral life means following the Ten Commandments and Jesus' Law of Love.

Beatitudes

1. Jesus gave us the Beatitudes, which tell us the way to live if we wish true happiness.
2. If we live the Beatitudes, putting God and others first, we will help to bring about the Kingdom of God – the reign of God in the hearts of all the people we meet.
3. Study each one of the Beatitudes, and understand their meaning for today.

Works of Mercy

1. Living a life of Commandment and Beatitude means doing the Works of Mercy.
2. The Corporal Works of Mercy means caring for the physical needs of others.

3. The Spiritual Works of Mercy means caring for the spiritual needs of others.
4. Study each of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and understand their meaning for today.

Our Moral Life

1. Through the Sacrament of Marriage, God asks each man and woman to be loyal and faithful to each other.
2. The differences between being a man or woman are gifts from God, and are an expression of God's love for us.
3. Through the sixth and ninth commandments, God reminds men and women that they should be faithful to their marriage vows, and that the expression of love should be kept for marriage.

Social Justice Teaching

1. The Church carries on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
2. As the Church, we are meant to carry on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
3. One of the commands Jesus gave us is the Corporal Works of Mercy (Matthew 25: 31-46), and by his life showed us the Spiritual Works of Mercy, which teach us how to care for the needs of others.
4. As followers of Jesus we should do the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Suggested Action

1. As a class, talk about the corporal needs of people in the parish and wider community.
2. Decide upon an action that the class could do, based on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
3. As a class, plan and complete the action of bringing the Good News of God's and the Church's care and concern to the person(s).

Our Faith Prayed

Required Prayers and Doctrine

Review of Grade 3 Prayers:

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Glory to the Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Our Father
5. Act of Contrition
6. Mass responses
7. Apostles' Creed

Prayers and Doctrine to add

1. Ten Commandments
2. Beatitudes
3. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Suggestions for Prayer Services

1. A Prayer Service can be created around any of the following:
(It would be good is the Social Action and Prayer Service were on the same topic and reinforced each other.)
 - a. Ten Commandments
 - b. Beatitudes
 - c. Works of Mercy
2. Allow the students individually, or in a group, to depict how they would put into practice a Commandment, Beatitude, or Work of Mercy.

Grade 5

Theme: The Sacraments

Grade 5 focuses on the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church and how they are signs of God's life and love in us. Each one of the sacraments is studied in depth, with particular attention paid to the Sacraments of Initiation. It is highly recommended that during this year the students spend a semester studying the Sacrament of Reconciliation to enable them to understand sin and God's mercy on an older level than when they first received this sacrament.

Key Concepts

The Blessed Trinity/The Creed
The Church Year
The Church
The Sacraments

Our Faith Believed Doctrine – Message

The Blessed Trinity/The Creed

1. The Trinity is a community of love – one God, three divine persons.
2. God is creator of the universe.
3. God speaks to us through creation, revealing who God is.
4. God speaks to us through scripture.
5. Jesus is human and divine.
6. Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary.
7. Jesus came to be the fullest revelation of who God is – that God is love.
8. Jesus is the sign of God's love.
9. We learn about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus through Sacred Scripture.
10. The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of Sacred Scripture.
11. The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus.
12. The Holy Spirit is our helper and advocate.
13. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles on the first Pentecost.
14. The Holy Spirit continues to lead and guide the Church and us as individuals today.
15. The Creed contains our beliefs about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and about the Church Jesus founded.

Our Faith Celebrated

Sacramental Life in Community

The Church Year

1. Overview of the Liturgical Year.
2. The Liturgical Year celebrates the life of Jesus, Mary and the Saints, and the Church.
3. Seasons and feasts of the Church year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, the Sacred Triduum, Easter Vigil, Easter, All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Feast of the Assumption.

The Church

1. The Church carries on the mission of Jesus today.
2. The Church nourishes, forgives, heals, serves, and strengthens us through the Sacraments.
3. We, as Church, are called to nourish, heal, forgive, serve, and strengthen each other by the way we live.

The Sacraments

1. The Seven Sacraments are signs of God's love.
2. In the Sacraments we experience God's grace – a share in God's life and love.
3. We become members of the Church through a process of conversion and initiation.
4. Today the Church celebrates the Sacraments of Initiation for adults through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), also called the catechumenate.
5. The Seven Sacraments are:
 - a. Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
 - Baptism - begins our new life with God
 - initiates us into the Church
 - symbols: water, oil, candle, white garment
 - Confirmation – seals us with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - strengthens us to conform our life to Jesus
 - symbols: oil, laying on of hands
 - Eucharist – means “thanksgiving”
 - is a meal - nourishes us
 - is a sacrifice - makes the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' passion/death/resurrection present to us now
 - Liturgy of the Word: God is present and speaks to us through the Word
 - Liturgy of the Eucharist: God is present and nourishes us through the bread and wine that becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus
 - symbols: Word, bread, wine
 - b. Sacraments of Healing – Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
 - Reconciliation – source of God's mercy and forgiveness
 - Examination of Conscience
 - symbol: laying on of hands

- The Rite of Reconciliation:
 - Word of God
 - Confession of Sin
 - Act of Contrition
 - Penance
 - Absolution
 - Thanksgiving

Anointing of the Sick – brings Jesus’ strength to the elderly, sick, dying

- prays for physical healing so that person can continue to be part of, or be restored to health, and rejoin the community
- helps those who are dying continue their journey to God
- symbol: oil

c. Sacraments of Service – Marriage, Holy Orders

Marriage, Matrimony – lifelong, loving covenant relationship between the husband and wife

- The couple are ministers of this sacrament
- Jesus is present in the marriage and gives the couple the grace to build a loving family
- The commitment of the couple is a sign of Jesus’ faithfulness to his Bride, the Church
- symbols: vows (promises)/rings

Holy Orders – a sign of the special priesthood of Jesus

- celebrates ordained ministry
- Bishops, priests, deacons are ordained for ministry
- Gives us leaders for the community of the Church who serve as Jesus served:
 - preach and teach Good News of Jesus
 - lead in celebrating sacraments
 - lead to build up the community
 - serve the poor and those in need
- symbols: laying on of hands

Our Faith Lived
Our Moral Life and the Church’s Social Justice Teaching
Leading to Mission - Service through Action

Our Moral Life

1. Marriage (Matrimony) is a sacrament of service that involves a lifelong, loving relationship of commitment between husband and wife.
2. Within this commitment husbands and wives express their emotional and physical love for each other.
3. They serve the Church by their love and share in God’s creation in a very special way when they give birth to children.

Social Justice Teaching

1. The Church carries on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
2. As the Church, we are meant to carry on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
3. When we are good stewards and give our time for others, we are carrying on the mission of Jesus in the world today.

Suggested Action

1. As a class decide how and with whom they would like to share their time.
2. Focus on what we receive in the sacraments – how we are fed, forgiven, and strengthened, and see if they can come up with a project in one of these areas - perhaps focusing on how to overcome prejudice and bring about reconciliation between people, or provide food for the needy.

Our Faith Prayed

Required Prayers and Doctrine

Review of Grade 4 Prayers:

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Glory to the Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Our Father
5. Act of Contrition – older version
6. Apostles' Creed
7. Ten Commandments
8. Beatitudes
9. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Doctrine to add

The Seven Sacraments – and the meaning of each

Suggestions for Prayer Services

1. A Prayer Service can be created around the Sacrament of Reconciliation and could be a Prayer Service on the theme of forgiveness.
2. A Prayer Service can be created around all the Sacraments, which focuses on how we are meant to live the meaning of each sacrament in our daily lives.

During Grade 5, the year in which the students review the Sacraments, it is strongly recommended that one segment of the year be devoted to an in depth study of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to present this important sacrament on an older level. Using one of the books listed below, and eliminating some of the chapters from the normal Grade 5 text will accomplish this objective.

Benziger, *Reconciliation: A Catechesis for Middle Grades*, 1994.

Silver Burdett Ginn, *We Celebrate Reconciliation: The Lord Forgives*, 1990.

(Ages 9-11)

Grade 6

Theme: The Bible and Salvation History

Grade 6 immerses the students in the Bible and helps them to understand it as the Word of God and also a story of our Salvation History. Much time is spent particularly on the Hebrew Scriptures – the Old Testament, and how through it God prepared humanity for Jesus, the promised Messiah and Son of God. Because the Eucharist has ties to the Jewish faith and the Passover Story of the Old Testament, it is highly recommended that during this year the students spend a semester studying this sacrament. This would also enable them to understand the Mass on an older level than when they received their First Communion.

Key Concepts

The Bible
The Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures)
The New Testament (Christian Scriptures)
The Sacraments
The Church Year

Our Faith Believed Doctrine – Message

The Bible

1. The Bible is the Word of God.
2. The Bible is a story of God's relationship with God's people.
3. The Bible is the family history of God's people.
4. The Bible is a Book of books.
5. The Bible is the Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit.
6. Through inspiration the Holy Spirit enabled writers to share God's words with God's people.
7. The authors of the books of the Bible wrote using different literary forms to express their faith in God.
8. The Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments.

The Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures)

1. The Old Testament, or the Hebrew Scriptures, tells about God's covenant relationship with the Hebrew people, the people of Israel.
2. The two creation stories of Genesis speak about God as creator of all that is good, and how through free will and human choice to disobey, sin and evil entered the world.

3. The tendency in us to choose ourselves over God and to turn away from God is called original sin.
4. God did not reject humanity but promised a Savior and established a covenant relationship with the people.
5. This covenant promise was established in the Garden and the story of Noah and continued through God's relationship with Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses.
6. The Exodus is the story of God's care for people of Israel who were in slavery, and how God brought them to freedom and to the Promised Land.
7. God's loving relationship with God's people was reflected in the law or the covenant God gave Moses called the Ten Commandments.
8. Other Old Testament people and Books to study :
 - a. Some of the Kings: Saul, David, Solomon
 - b. Some of the Prophets – those who brought God's message to the people of Israel: Elijah, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Judith, Esther
 - c. The Book of psalms

The New Testament (Christian Scriptures)

1. The New Testament, or the Christian Scriptures, tells of God's relationship restored with God's people through Jesus Christ.
2. The New Testament contains Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, letters, and the Book of Revelations.
3. The four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John contain the Good News of God's kingdom as found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
4. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave the Beatitudes as guidelines for discipleship.
5. The Works of Mercy are based on Jesus' life and teaching concerning how we are meant to take care of our brothers and sisters.
6. Jesus gave his disciples and us the New Covenant of love in the Eucharist.
7. The Acts of the Apostles tells us the story of the beginning of the Church after Jesus' death and resurrection.
8. The New Testament letters were written to the early churches to help their members understand how to live the Christian faith.
9. The Book of Revelations is an example of apocalyptic literature and talks about the end times when God will create a new creation of a new heaven and new earth, and goodness will triumph over evil.
10. Through Mary's willingness to say "yes" to God, she participated in God's plan for the salvation of all people.

Our Faith Celebrated Sacramental Life in Community

Sacraments

1. A review of each of the seven Sacraments:
 - a. We enter the Church community through the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist

- b. The Sacraments of Healing restore us to the Church community - Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
 - c. Through the Sacraments of Service (Vocation) - Matrimony, Holy Orders – we are called to serve the Church Community in different ways.
2. The sacraments developed out of Jesus’ action and teachings.
 3. Many of the sacraments grew out of the faith life of the Jewish people and have Old Testament connections.
 4. Through Baptism we take on the mission of Jesus as Priest, Prophet, King.
 5. Through Confirmation we are anointed with Chrism and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we can live more like Christ.
 6. The Eucharist was based on the Passover Meal of the Jewish people.
 7. Jesus changed the meaning of the Passover when he gave us his body and blood to eat and drink, under the form of bread and wine.

The Church Year

1. Advent and the “O Antiphons” help us to prepare and look forward with hope and expectation for the coming of Jesus.
2. Christmas celebrates Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the hopes of those who waited for the coming of the Messiah.
3. Holy Week celebrates the new Passover - which Jesus, through his passion, death, and resurrection, became the new Paschal Lamb of God and brought about the new covenant.
4. The readings of the Easter Vigil are a summation of God’s plan of salvation for all people, which culminated in Jesus’ resurrection from the dead.

Our Faith Lived Our Moral Life and the Church’s Social Justice Teaching Leading to Mission - Service through Action

Our Moral Life

1. The creation stories teach us that the dignity of the human person is rooted in his or her creation in the image and likeness of God.
2. God created each of us with the freedom to choose to do good or evil.
3. As a child and creation of God we are meant to live according to the covenant of the Ten Commandments, thus choosing to life of love, chastity, and reverence towards God, self, and others.

Social Justice Teaching

1. The Church carries on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
2. As the Church, we are meant to carry on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
3. When we work for justice and peace, we are carrying on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
4. Through the Beatitudes Jesus challenges us to be just and to be peacemakers.

Suggested Action

1. Discuss with the students the injustices they see in their local community.
2. Brainstorm with the students how to create a world that is just and peaceful – the practical things that can be done to overcome injustice, based on the Beatitudes.
3. Choose one action the class would like to do to foster justice and peace.

Our Faith Prayed

Required Prayers and Doctrine

Review of Grade 5 Prayers:

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Glory to the Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Our Father
5. Act of Contrition – older version
6. Apostles' Creed
7. Ten Commandments
8. Beatitudes
9. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
10. The Seven Sacraments – and the meaning of each

Suggestion for Prayer Service

1. A Prayer Service can be created around the Jesse Tree and take place during Advent. This would give the students a chance to look up passages in the Bible and create symbols of people who waited for and prepared for the coming of the Messiah.
2. A Prayer Service can be created around the Beatitudes and connect them with the Exodus event. Just as God saw the injustice of the slavery of the people of Israel and freed them, we are called to help those enslaved by injustice today – by prejudice, social injustice, economic factors, etc. The focus can be on how the students can live the Beatitudes today.

During Grade 6, the year in which the students study the Bible, and especially the Old Testament, it is strongly recommended that one segment of the year be devoted to an in depth study of the Sacrament of Eucharist, to present this important sacrament on an older level. Using the text listed below, and eliminating some of the chapters from the normal Grade 6 text will accomplish this objective.

Benziger, *Eucharist: A Catechesis for Middle Grades*, 1994.

Appendix I

Criteria for Evaluating Series

Below is listed some of the criteria that were used in evaluating the texts, which may be helpful to you in deciding the best series to use for your parish. These criteria have been adapted from the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership publication, *How To Choose Catechetical Textbooks: Process and Criteria*, 1996, pages 11-12. In reviewing the texts, a rank should be assigned to each criterion from the evaluation code, and the series with highest total will be best for your use.

Evaluation Code

The evaluation code for each of the criteria is:

3	Outstanding	Fulfills the criteria exceptionally well
2	Satisfactory	Adequately fulfills the criteria
1	Minimally Adequate	Partially fulfills the criteria: needs supplementary resources
0	Unacceptable	does not fill the criteria

Criteria for Evaluation

Circle One

1. The this series reveals the Christian mystery in its entirety, reinforcing truths and treating them in greater depth in successive years. **3—2—1—0**
2. This program as a whole reflects the norms and guidelines outlined in the *Guidelines for Curriculum*, Diocese of Beaumont. **3—2—1—0**
3. The series takes into consideration the way children learn. (Example: Research says that children only learn 20% of what they hear and 90% of what they do.) **3—2—1—0**
4. The lesson plans have the sequence of human experience, message, discovery, and prayer response. **3—2—1—0**
5. The teacher's manuals are clear and easy to use. They guide both the professional and non-professional to good catechetical procedures. **3—2—1—0**
6. There is sufficient background information for teachers. **3—2—1—0**
7. There is a sufficient variety of multi-cultural approaches in both content and graphics. **3—2—1—0**
8. The texts are appealing and contain age appropriate graphics and art work. **3—2—1—0**
9. There are adequate resources for assisting parents in the religious **3—2—1—0**

- education of their children.
- | | |
|---|---------|
| 10. The learning experience and reading levels are appropriate to grade levels of the students. | 3—2—1—0 |
| 11. Doctrine is presented in an age appropriate manner. | 3—2—1—0 |
| 12. Provisions are made for student evaluations. | 3—2—1—0 |
| 13. There are a variety of prayer and worship experiences. | 3—2—1—0 |
| 14. The textbook series provides activities that facilitate growth in faith and understanding. | 3—2—1—0 |
| 15. The series suggests a wide variety of media. | 3—2—1—0 |
| 16. The series incorporates various methodologies. | 3—2—1—0 |
| 17. As a whole, the series develops the catechetical dimensions of our faith believed, celebrated, lived, and prayed. | 3—2—1—0 |

Acceptable Texts for Grades 1 – 6 2003-2004

The Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education is not designating one series to be used throughout the diocese, because we recognize that there is great diversity in parish Religious Education Programs. Because of this it is important for parishes to determine which of the series best fits their needs. The series listed alphabetically below are from the major publishing companies and have been approved by the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, “to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*”. The Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education has also designated them as acceptable for use by parish Religious Education Programs, Grades 1 – 6 in the Diocese of Beaumont, because they best reflect the norms of these *Guidelines for Curriculum* and the *Guidelines for Catechesis, Grades 1-8*, in both content and number of sessions provided.

New series or resources added this year are thus marked: .

- Benziger – *Christ Jesus, the Way*, 2003.
- Brown-ROA – *Walking by Faith*, 1999.
- Loyola Press - *Christ Our Life*, 2002.
- RCL (Resources for Christian Living) – *Faith First*, 2000.
- Silver Burdette Ginn – *Coming to Faith*, Jubilee Edition, 1997.
- William H. Sadlier – *We Believe*, 2003.

Appendix II

Alternative Acceptable Program for Parishes/Mission with Combined Grades 1 – 6 2003-2004

The Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education recognizes that some parishes and missions do not have enough children in each grade to use the traditional series in their Religious Education Program. Therefore, we suggest an alternate approach in order to meet the need of covering the material in these guidelines in an appropriate manner. This approach would combine a lectionary-based program with grade level workbooks on the basics of our Catholic faith that would provide for learning together as a larger group, and small group work by grade level. Since the programs are lectionary-based, different material would be covered for each year of the three-year cycle (Cycles A, B, and C.)

The acceptable lectionary-based programs, listed in alphabetical order, are:

Brown-ROA, *Seasons of Faith*, (Primary Workbook)
Seasons of Faith, (Intermediate Workbook)
Seasons of Faith, (Junior High Workbook)

Pflaum Press, *Promise* (K and 1)
Good News (Grades 2 and 3)
Venture (Grades 4, 5, and 6)

Resource Publications, Inc., *Celebrating the Lectionary*, (Beginner: Ages 4-6)
Celebrating the Lectionary, (Primary: Ages 6-9)
Celebrating the Lectionary, (Intermediate: Ages 9-11)

Silver Burdette Ginn, *Living Word, Living Water*, 2000
(*Seekers*, Preschool/Kindergarten)
(*Explorers*, 6-10 year-olds)

Combining this material with the following workbooks would insure that the basic elements of our Catholic faith are covered each year:

Resources for Christian Living, *Our Catholic Identity: Catechism Workbook*, 1997.
(Grades 1-6)