

Diocese of Allentown, PA
Religion Curriculum Guidelines

GRADE 7

Priority Topics:

New Testament

N.B. Numbers in parentheses are citations from **The Catechism of the Catholic Church** unless otherwise noted as Scriptural references.

Words that appear in bold italics within the curriculum objectives are terms introduced for the first time at this level.

STANDARD: CREED

Subtopic: Revelation

Cognitive

Children will:

- Recognize Jesus Christ as the full and final revelation of God **(65-66, 73)**
- Know that God's plan for salvation and the gift of the Kingdom are revealed through Jesus and the Scriptures **(101-103, 134)**
- Understand that the New Testament contains the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, Epistles, and the Book of Revelation
- Recognize that each of the four Gospels was written for a different audience to show Jesus as the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation for all people
- Discover that the Gospels are the heart of all the Scriptures **(125)**
- Know that the ***evangelists*** were proclaimers of the Good News to whom credit was given for the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- Distinguish the three stages in the formation of the Gospels **(126)**
 1. the life and teaching of Jesus
 2. the oral tradition
 3. the written Gospel

Affective

Children will:

- Desire to draw closer to God by reading, learning, and praying with Sacred Scripture
- Grow in appreciation for and desire to study the four Gospels
- Demonstrate a desire to follow Jesus in the Church

Behavioral

Children will:

- Explore and relate details of Scripture passages for this grade level

- Demonstrate proficiency in using the Bible by finding and reading passages silently and aloud, using the Bible for faith development, for prayer, and for journaling
- Name the categories of books of the New Testament: Gospels, Acts, Epistles and Revelation
- Name the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- Demonstrate reverence for God's Word in their care and handling of Bibles as the inspired word of God by treating them with extra care, protecting them and keeping them clean (i.e., not writing on them, keeping Bibles in places where they will be protected e.g., on/in desks or bookcases, not on the floor, etc.)

Subtopic: Trinity

Cognitive

Children will:

- Recognize that the mystery of the **Trinity** expresses our belief that God is three in one, always is, always was and always will be
- Recognize the Trinity as the source and model of family life and of all community
- Recognize the work of salvation as common to the three persons of the Trinity and distinguish their roles according to their unique personal reality (e.g. Father as love and goal, Son as image and brother to us, Spirit as communion and inner presence) **Sanctifier (258)**

Affective

Children will:

- Appreciate the action of the Holy Trinity in their lives as Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, and be grateful for each as an expression of love

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray to the persons of the Holy Trinity for help and guidance
- Identify the roles of the persons of the Trinity: God the Father as **Creator**, God the Son as **Redeemer** and God the Holy Spirit as **Sanctifier (258)**

Subtopic: God the Father

Cognitive

Children will:

- Continue to reflect on creation, and the concepts of the dignity of the human person, free will, and eternal life with God (**343, 356, 1730**)
- Recognize that we come to know God the Father through Jesus Christ (**73**) (**Jn. 14:6**)

Affective

Children will:

- Understand and appreciate that the gifts of intellect and free will call us to be accountable for our actions

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray for the desire to make conscious, loving decisions
- Show by words and actions that each person, created in the image and likeness of God, deserves respect (**Mt. 25:40**)

Subtopic: Jesus, the Son of God who became man

Cognitive

Children will:

- Acknowledge that the **Incarnation** is the mystery of the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity becoming truly man while remaining truly God
- Recognize that the second person of the Trinity is Jesus, one person, fully divine and fully human
- Grow in understanding of Jesus' mission (**Lk. 4:18-19**)
- Understand that the eternal Son became human to join us to God and thus fulfill our true human destiny
- Recognize the events in the life of Jesus in relation to their accomplishment of God's plan of salvation (Refer to Scripture table, "Events in the Life of Jesus")
- Grow in understanding of the meaning of Jesus' parables and His other teachings (Refer to Scripture table, "Events in the Life of Jesus")
- Grow in understanding of the meaning of the Beatitudes (**Mt. 5:3-8**)
- Develop familiarity with the teachings of Jesus found in the **Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7)**
- Deepen their understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ (**243, 1816**) (**Mt. 16:24-26; Mt. 28:18-20**)
- Recognize that Jesus revealed His divinity by saving us from sin and giving us a share in eternal life (Refer to Scripture Table, "Events in the Life of Jesus")
- Review and deepen their understanding of the **Paschal Mystery**, the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus
- Acknowledge the mystery of the Trinity, the Incarnation, and the Paschal Mystery as the most important mysteries of our Catholic faith (**234, 464, 571**)

Affective

Children will:

- Increase their desire and determination to model their lives on the life and teachings of Jesus, living as His disciples
- Appreciate the Beatitudes as guides for Christian living

- Grow in appreciation for Jesus' saving action in their lives

Behavioral

Children will:

- Name various titles of Jesus and explain their meaning (e.g., Christ, Lord, Messiah, Redeemer, Savior, Teacher, etc.)
- Relate details of major events in the life of Jesus, such as His birth, baptism, public ministry, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension
- Give evidence of the true humanity and true divinity of Jesus as presented in the Gospels
- Evidence growth in discipleship by their words and actions
- Identify and explain the meaning of some of Jesus' key teachings as proclaimed in the Sermon on the Mount (**Mt. 5-7**)

Subtopic: Holy Spirit

Cognitive

Children will:

- Recognize the Holy Spirit as the **Sanctifier** (one who makes us holy) whom we come to know through the revelation of Jesus (**747, 749**)
- Discover that the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to be with us always (**746, 747**)
- Understand that the Holy Spirit calls us to holiness and guides us in our vocation of spreading the Good News (**768**)
- Recognize the **gifts of the Holy Spirit** as helps for living as disciples of Jesus (**1303**)
- Identify the **fruits of the Holy Spirit** as evidence of faithful discipleship (**736**) (**Gal. 5:22-23**)
- Recognize that the Holy Spirit guides the Church (**749**)

Affective

Children will:

- Desire to respond to their call to witness and serve God's Kingdom
- Desire to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit in living as Jesus' disciples
- Desire to evidence the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and reflect on their own call to vocation
- Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength in living as Jesus' disciples
- Use the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives and give examples of themselves and others using these gifts
- Evidence the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives and identify examples of people past and present evidencing these fruits

Subtopic: The Church

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that Jesus called Peter to be the leader of the first Church **(424, 765) (Mt. 16:13-19)**
- Strengthen their understanding of the importance of the twelve apostles in establishing the Church **(857-858)**
- Know that Jesus sent His disciples into the world to spread the Good News, and He asks us to work together to spread His message **(Mt. 28:18-20)**
- Recognize the birth of the Church as contained in the Pentecost event **(767) (Acts 2)**

- Recognize that the Church continues through her life and action to witness the Kingdom revealed in the presence and work of Jesus **(763, 764)**
- Recognize their participation in the Church's mission by witnessing the Kingdom of God in their own lives and actions.

Affective

Children will:

- Desire to participate in the Church's destiny by longing for the fullness of the Kingdom of God
- Appreciate that the Church supports us in our mission of discipleship
- Develop admiration and gratitude for the twelve apostles

Behavioral

Children will:

- Continue caring for God's people by participating in the missionary activity of the Church especially by prayer and participating in the Holy Childhood Association and responding to the needs of those afflicted by natural disasters, etc.
- Carry out the mission of the Church as individual members, sharing Christ's love with others by caring actions and reaching out to those in need in daily life (e.g., praying for others, encouraging and supporting their peers in goodness, etc.)
- Participate in the Church's mission of witnessing the Kingdom of God by loving and serving others, especially the poor
- Relate details of the lives and missionary work of the twelve apostles
- Pray for the Church and her leaders

Subtopic: The Communion of Saints

Cognitive

Children will:

- Deepen their understanding of Mary's role in salvation history as the first and best disciple of Jesus
- Recognize the unity of mission in the communion of saints as that of discipleship
- Understand the importance of the apostles in the communion of saints and become familiar with their names and lives

Affective

Children will:

- Deepen their appreciation of our connection with all persons past, present and future who have lived as disciples of Jesus
- Desire to imitate Mary, St. Joseph, the apostles, and other faithful followers of Jesus (i.e., the saints in heaven, souls in purgatory, and baptized Christians on earth) in answering Jesus' call to discipleship

Behavioral

Children will:

- Listen to stories about and retell facts about the lives of various saints, especially the apostles
- Pray the Rosary
- Ask Mary and members of the communion of saints to intercede for them

Subtopic: Grace, Sin and Forgiveness

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that the grace Jesus received to accomplish His mission on earth is also offered to us so that we can fulfill our baptismal call **(1266-1270)**
- Recognize stories of Jesus offering forgiveness to those whom He encountered in His public ministry **(Lk. 19:1-10; Jn. 8: 1-11)**
- Deepen their understanding of some of Jesus' teachings about sin and forgiveness **(545) (Mt. 5:38-42; Mt. 18:15-17; Mt. 18:21-35; Mk. 9:42-48; Lk. 15)**
- Strengthen their understanding that the forgiveness Jesus extended to sinners during His life is extended to us today in the Sacrament of Reconciliation **(1443-1445)**

Affective

Children will:

- Pray for the grace to live as faithful disciples of Jesus
- Grow in appreciation of Jesus' forgiveness and saving action in their lives
- Desire to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance frequently

Behavioral

Children will:

- Relate details of Jesus' teachings and actions of forgiveness
- Celebrate the Sacrament of Penance
- Demonstrate acceptance of God's grace by their words and actions

Subtopic: Life Everlasting

Cognitive

Children will:

- Understand that Jesus died and rose to accomplish the will of the Father, to redeem us and to win for us everlasting life **(655)**
- Know that Catholics believe that Jesus will come at the end of time to judge the living and the dead, and the Kingdom of God will then be manifested in its fullness. **(1042)**

Affective

Children will:

- Grow in gratitude for Jesus' saving action and desire to participate in that saving action by making sacrifices for the sake of the Kingdom of God

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray for the strength to live as Jesus' disciples
- Make sacrifices to help others

STANDARD: SACRAMENTS

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that God loves us and that He is the source of all life **(2258-2262) (1 Cor. 3:16-17; Acts 2:1-41; Jn. 6:54)**
- Know that God shares His word with others in the Sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist; in the Sacraments of Healing: Penance and Anointing of the Sick; and in the Sacrament of Service of Communion (service to one another): Matrimony and Holy Orders **(914, 916, 940-943, 1536-1582, 1604-1658, 2013, 2015) (Mt. 19:16-21; Jn. 2:1-10; Mt. 19:4-6)**
- Recognize the words and actions of Jesus as the foundations for the institution of the Seven Sacraments **(1210-1690, Scripture References: see footnotes in CCC 1210-1690)**
- Acknowledge that the *gifts of the Holy Spirit* present in each of us are first celebrated at Baptism and strengthened at Confirmation **(1266, 1303)**
- Recognize that through the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick, a person receives grace from the Holy Spirit and is strengthened spiritually in times of physical, mental and/or emotional suffering **(1511-1513, 1532, 1520-1525) (Jas. 5:14-16)**
- Know that through the Sacrament of Matrimony, a man and a woman are joined in one life and receive the graces necessary to help them in all aspects of their married life **(1569-1666) (Rev. 19:7; Gen. 1:26-28; 1 Cor. 7:39; Eph. 5:31-32; Mt. 19:6-11)**
- Know that the Sacrament of Holy Orders is a Sacrament of apostolic ministry, through which Christ continues to shepherd His people **(1563-1566) (Mk. 3:14-19; Lk. 6:12; 1 Tim 3:1-13)**
- Learn the essential signs of the Sacrament of Holy Orders **(1573-1574, 1590-1600)**
- Recognize the bishops of the Church as the successors of the Apostles **(1087)**
- Become familiar with the fundamental concepts of the theology of Confirmation by studying the Diocesan questions for Confirmation candidates (N.B. This objective is to be accomplished in conjunction with the parish's Confirmation preparation process in the year in which the youth are to be confirmed; see appendix with questions)

Affective

Children will:

- Appreciate that the Church guides us in following Jesus and that the Sacraments strengthen us with the grace necessary for faithful discipleship
- Appreciate Scripture stories as a basis for learning about the Sacraments
- Accept their responsibility in imitation of Jesus to pray for the sick and the aged, to care for them, and to see that they have an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
- Appreciate that in the Sacrament of Matrimony, the husband and wife give witness to the faithful love of God as they witness to each other, to their children and to the community
- Appreciate the commitment of a life of prayer and service to the Church that those who receive Holy Orders make
- Value the opportunity to prepare to celebrate Confirmation and desire to participate in the parish's preparation process (in the year in which youth in the parish generally celebrate this sacrament)

Behavioral

Children will:

- Experience walking in Jesus' footsteps by making life in their homes peaceful, caring and loving
- Renew their efforts to be more loving and compassionate to the sick, the elderly and the dying
- Pray for vocations
- Learn that individual Christians respond to God's call to spread the Good News in the "vocations" of single life, married life, religious life and ordained ministry
- Name the Last Supper as a moment when Jesus instituted the Sacraments of Eucharist and Holy Orders
- Celebrate the Sacraments as experiences of Jesus' power and presence among us and as sources of grace for discipleship
- Show love for Jesus by conscientious preparation for and reverent participation in the Sacraments
- Demonstrate faith in action by using sacramental grace in daily life
- Recite from memory the answers to the Diocesan questions for Confirmation candidates (N.B. this objective is to be accomplished in conjunction with the parish's Confirmation preparation process in the year in which the youth are to be confirmed; see appendix with questions.)

STANDARD: MORALITY

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know the two types of virtues: theological and human
- Grow in understanding of the seven principle teachings of social justice
 1. The human person is sacred.
 2. The human person is social.
 3. Human persons have rights and responsibilities toward one another.
 4. To test the goodness of our society, we ask how our most vulnerable are faring. We put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
 5. Work is more than a way to earn a living. It is a way of participating in God's creation.
 6. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family. This is what solidarity means.
 7. Our faith requires us to respect our Creator by being good stewards of creation.
- Recognize **social sin** and its effects (1869)
- Know and understand the **Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy**
 - Know that all baptized people are called to follow Jesus' example of chastity (2348)
 - Know that the Bible is an important guide for living as Christians. (102, 151, 376-390, 410-412) (Col. 1:15-20; Is. 53:4-5; 1 Jn. 4:16)
 - Recognize Jesus and Mary as models of Christian virtue (1717, 2030)
 - Review virtues as firm attitudes and stable dispositions that enable persons to govern their actions and guide their conduct according to reason and faith (1804)
 - Acknowledge that the goal of a virtuous life is to become like God (1803) (Phil. 4:8)
 - Develop understanding of the Beatitudes as attitudes characteristic of Christian living (1717) (Mt. 5:3-11)
 - Understand that purity, modesty, and self-control help the development of chastity
 - Recognize in the lives of Mary and Joseph models for Christian parenting

- Recognize in the relationships of Jesus and His apostles models for Christian friendship
- Consider qualities that lead to positive friendships **(1889, 1930, 2347)**

Affective

Children will:

- Understand and desire to develop the two types of virtues: theological and human
- Desire to grow in living a virtuous life, including developing the virtues of chastity, purity, self-control, modesty, and honesty
- Appreciate that at each Mass we are strengthened to live virtuous lives in responding to the call to go out and serve the Lord
- Desire to read and reflect on the teaching of the Bible as a source for study and prayer in order to grow in the understanding of ourselves and of God's loving will for us
- Value qualities in themselves and other persons that make them good friends

Behavioral

Children will:

- Live the Greatest Commandment: to love God above all others, and to love others as they love themselves
- Make a weekly examination of conscience using the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes
- List specific examples of ways persons can live the Beatitudes
- Evidence in their actions growth in living the Beatitudes
- Develop and participate in service projects that enable them to live the command to "go out and serve the Lord" (e.g., collect items or money for organizations or for the poor, write to or visit the sick or homebound, etc.)
- Name qualities of good friends after reflecting on the examples of Jesus and the apostles and other saints who were friends

STANDARD: PRAYER

Cognitive

Children will:

- Strengthen and expand their understanding of prayer as raising one's heart and mind to God
- Know that prayer can be public or private, individual or communal (liturgical), vocal or silent **(2559-2561, 2626-2643, 2705, 2708)**
- Know **adoration** as respectful silence in the presence of God **(2627)**
- Know **contrition** as sorrow of the soul for sins committed; the first act of the penitent **(1451)**
- Understand **thanksgiving** as an offering of thanks for every event and need **(2637-38)**
- Understand **supplication** as a prayer of petition or intercession whereby we ask, beseech, plead, invoke, entreat, cry out, even "struggle" in prayer **(2629-2636)**
- Know the Luminous Mysteries **(1674)**
- Recognize that prayer was an essential aspect of Jesus' life
- Recognize that the Our Father is the perfect prayer that Jesus gave us **(2763)**

Affective

Children will:

- Grow in appreciation and desire for prayer as an essential way of developing a relationship with God
- Be grateful for God's love expressed in His listening to our prayers
- Appreciate the power of intercessory prayer and become comfortable with vocalizing their prayers
- Recognize that Liturgical Prayer is the official public prayer of the Church and the two main kinds are the Eucharistic Sacrifice (Mass) and the Liturgy of the Hours **(1073, 1174-1178, 2655)**
- Recognize that meditation is a form of prayer in which one reflects on the mysteries of Christ and strives to make these mysteries a part of one's life. Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion and desire **(2705-2708)**
- Desire to develop a prayer life in imitation of Jesus

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray for their needs and the needs of others
- Experience prayer based on Sacred Scripture including reading Scripture and meditating on God's word and reflecting on Scripture and keeping reflections in a prayer journal
- Prepare a Eucharistic Liturgy as a class, choosing a theme and hymns, and writing intercessory prayers in connection with the readings for the day
- Experience a variety of prayer forms – silence, listening, song, gestures, spontaneous petitions, prayers of thanksgiving, etc.
- Pray the rosary
- Explore Scripture passages in which Jesus is at prayer (**2600-2605**)

Vocabulary

Absolution
Annunciation
Apostle
Aramaic
Ascension
Assumption
Bethlehem
Bishop
Catechumen
Communal Prayer
Confession
Contrition
Conversion
Creed
Deacon
Disciple
Epistle
Essenes
Evangelists

Exorcism
Faith
Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Galilee
Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Gospel
Immaculate Conception
Incarnation
Infancy Narratives
Inspiration
Jerusalem
Judea
Laity
Lectionary
Liturgy
Liturgy of the Word
Liturgy of the Eucharist
Liturgy of the Hours
Luminous Mysteries
Magisterium
Meditation
Messiah
Nazareth
Ordination
Palestine

Parable
Paschal Mystery
Passover
Penance
Pharisees
Presentation of Jesus
Priest
Purity
Reconciliation
Restitution
Sabbath
Sacraments of Initiation
 Baptism
 Confirmation
 Holy Eucharist
Sacraments of Healing
 Penance
 Anointing of the Sick
Sacraments of Service/Ministry
 Matrimony
 Holy Orders
Sacramental
Sacramentary
Sadducees
Samaria
Sanhedrin
Scribes
Scripture
Secular
Self-control
Synagogue
Temple
Thanksgiving
Tradition
Trinity
Zealots
Viaticum
Virgin Birth
Visitation
Transubstantiation

Persons of Faith

Peter
Andrew
James
John
Philip
Bartholomew
Matthew
Thomas
Simon

Jude
Judas
Matthias
Luke
Mark
Paul
St. Maria Goretti
St. Joseph

Memorization

Names of the Four Gospels
The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39)
The Beatitudes
The Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope, Love
The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

Prayers To Know

Review prayers from previous levels
Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Rosary – Luminous Mysteries