

Diocese of Allentown, PA
Religion Curriculum Guidelines

GRADE 8

Priority Topics:

The Church: It's Life and History

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 two ways, using human reason, of coming to know God from creation: through the physical world and through the human person **(31-35)**
- Develop an understanding that God's revelation offers humankind knowledge of God that we could not discover through our own powers **(50)**
- Recognize that God reveals Himself to human beings that we might respond to Him in knowledge and love **(52)**
- Recognize God's plan of revelation as gradual and unfolding, culminating in Jesus Christ
- Develop understanding that the transmission of Divine Revelation was the command of Jesus to "Go and preach to all nations", and that this command was fulfilled in the apostles' preaching, then in the writing and compilation of the Sacred Scripture, and continues today through apostolic succession in the Church and Sacred Tradition **(75-78)**
- Become familiar with the writings of St. Paul found in the Scriptures
- Understand that the **magisterium** of the Church is the special teaching authority of the Church
- Become familiar with the term **dogma**, any truth of the Catholic church which has been revealed in Scripture or Tradition and officially defined by the Church that Catholics must believe **(88-90)**
- Understand that a **doctrine** is a truth of faith taught by the Catholic Church
- Know that the documents of Church Councils, encyclicals of the popes, and pastoral letters of the bishops give us a deeper understanding of revelation **(4-5, 11, Index of Citations)**

Affective

Children will:

- Grow in desire to know God and the truths of the Catholic faith
- Develop gratitude for God's gifts of human reason and divine revelation
- Appreciate the Church as preserver and transmitter of Revelation
- Value Sacred Scripture as a guide for discipleship and desire to read and pray with it frequently

Behavioral

Children will:

- Explore and relate details of Scripture passages for this grade level
- Name ways they can demonstrate the reasonableness of believing in the existence of God through the physical world and through the use of human reason
- Identify examples of divine revelation that the human person could not arrive at by his/her own powers
- Cite specific passages in the writings of St. Paul that have relevance for them today and explain their meanings
- Give examples of Church dogmas and doctrines

Subtopic: Trinity

Cognitive

Children will:

- Deepen their understanding of ways of living out their Baptismal call to be priest, prophet, and king in the ordained, consecrated, and lay lifestyles in the Church
- Recognize the Trinity as a community of love and the model for all Christian community
- Develop an understanding that God invites us to relationship with each of the persons of the Trinity

Affective

Children will:

- Desire to grow in relationship with the Holy Trinity
- Desire to be good members of their families and the other communities to which they belong

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray to the persons of the Trinity for the grace to live out their baptismal call
- Give examples of ways persons can live as good members of their families and the other communities to which they belong

Subtopic: God the Father

Cognitive

Children will:

- Understand that God established a covenant with His people, promising to be faithful to them in word and deed **(55-66, 71-73)**

Affective

Children will:

- Experience gratitude for God's constant fidelity to His covenant

Behavioral

Children will:

- Express their fidelity to their baptismal covenant by following the teachings of Jesus and His Church

Subtopic: Jesus, the Son of God who became man

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that Jesus is the founder and head of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church **(669, 792)**
- Recognize the Pope as Christ's representative on earth, the direct successor Peter **(882)**
- Know that Christ desires that we work and pray toward the unity of all baptized Christians, as they develop understanding of the concept of ***ecumenism***, the movement which aims to restore Christian unity **(820-822) (Jn. 17:21)**

Affective

Children will:

- Desire to stay connected to the Church in order to be supported in being faithful disciples of Jesus Christ
- Desire to support other members of the Church as our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ
- Respect the Pope in his role as Christ's representative on earth

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray for the Pope and Church leaders
- Pray for the unity of all Christians

Subtopic: Holy Spirit

Cognitive

Children will:

- Grow in understanding of the Holy Spirit's action in our lives as **Sanctifier**, one who makes us holy and **Paraclete**, advocate or helper (692, 749)
- Recognize the **gifts of the Holy Spirit** as powers the Spirit gives us to live out our Baptismal call to holiness (1830-1831)
- Recognize the **fruits of the Holy Spirit** as signs of the power of the Holy Spirit at work in individuals and the Church (736, 1832) (Gal. 5:22-23)
- Relate the Pentecost event to their lives and the celebration of Confirmation in the Church
- Recognize that the Holy Spirit guides the Church to continue to teach the truth about Christ
- Grow in understanding of traditional symbols of the Holy Spirit: breath, wind, fire, dove (696, 701) (Acts 2)
- Become familiar with the concept of **charisms**, gifts given to individuals and communities to be used for the building up of the Church (799-801) (1 Cor. 12:4-11)

Affective

Children will:

- Appreciate the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the theological virtues as tools for Christian living and pray for their increase in their lives
- Desire to evidence the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives
- Be grateful for their own and others' charisms.

Behavioral

Children will:

- Name the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier and Paraclete
- Name and explain the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and the theological virtues
- Give examples of holy men and women past and present who evidence the presence of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and the theological virtues in their lives

- Name examples of the use of the symbols of the Holy Spirit in Sacred Scripture
- Pray the Prayer of the Holy Spirit from memory
- List ways the Holy Spirit helps individual Christians and the Church
- Identify some of their charisms and consider ways they can use them to build up the Body of Christ
- Give examples of the charisms of saints and living members of the Body of Christ and how these gifts reveal the Kingdom of God



Subtopic: The Church

Cognitive

Children will:

- Recognize the Church as the Sacrament of Christ's presence in the world
- Become familiar with Scriptural images of the Church:
 - The Sheepfold (**John 10:1-16**)
 - The Vine and Branches (**John 15:1-8**)
 - The Leaven (**Luke 13:20-21**)
 - The Body of Christ (**790-795**) (**1 Cor. 12:12-31**)
 - The Bride of Christ (**796**)
- Name and explain the meaning of the marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, apostolic (**811-869**)
- Grow in knowledge of Church history and become familiar with some major events in early Church history:
 - Pentecost (**Acts 2**)
 - The Stoning of Stephen (**Acts 7:54-60**)
 - The Conversion of Paul (**Acts 9: 1-31**)
 - The Council of Jerusalem (**Acts 15:1-35**)
 - The Martyrdoms of Peter, Paul and the Other Apostles
- Develop an understanding of the structure of the Church
- Recognize that the Catholic Church is made up of Eastern Rite Catholics (e.g., Coptic, Ukranian, Maronite, etc.) and Roman Rite Catholics, united by a common creed, the Sacraments, and the leadership of the Pope

- Understand that the Pope, bishops, priests and ordained ministers belong to the Church's **hierarchy**, and guide the Church (**874-887**)
- Know that the Church is holy because her founder is holy and the Holy Spirit is alive in her
- Recognize that the **laity** witness the truth of God's Kingdom in the world in which they live and work (**897-913**)
- Become familiar with the place and role of baptized Christians who live the **consecrated life** of religious brothers and sisters (**914-927**)
- Recognize that the Christian family, the **Domestic Church**, has a special role in the service of God's Kingdom
- Grow in understanding of the Church as the **Mystical Body of Christ**, both visible and spiritual, human and divine (**779**)
- Develop deeper understanding of the vocational lifestyles in the Church: ordained ministry, religious life, married life and single life and their roles in the Body of Christ (**934-945**)
- Become familiar with the **Precepts of the Church** (**2041-2043**)
- Become acquainted with some of the **Church Councils**, official meetings of the pope and bishops and their contributions to the doctrine of the Church (e.g., Nicea, Trent, Vatican II)
- Recognize that the documents of Church Councils, encyclicals of the popes, and pastoral letters of the bishops give us a deeper understanding of revelation and guide us in understanding the Church and the Church's teachings (**4-5, 11, Index of Citations**)

Affective

Children will:

- Appreciate belonging to the Mystical Body of Christ
- Desire to discover, develop, and share their gifts as members of the Body of Christ
- Develop appreciation for and the practice of prayer and participation in liturgy as ways to remain united to Jesus and His Church
- Deepen their appreciation of their Catholic heritage
- Desire the unity of all Christians
- Value and aspire to follow the Precepts of the Church
- Want to discern their vocations and support others in their vocations in the Church

Behavioral

Children will:

- Name their individual gifts and those of others that can be put to service in the Body of Christ
- 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.)
- Pray and participate in liturgy in an effort to be active members of the Church
- Name specific events, eras and significant persons in Church history (e.g., the Apostolic Age, the Age of Martyrs, etc.)
- Pray to discern their individual vocations and for vocations in the Church
- Name and give examples of living the Precepts of the Church
- Make efforts to read portions of Church documents, encyclicals, letters of the popes and bishops and recognize quotes from them
- Identify an **encyclical** as a letter dealing with faith or morals written by the Pope for the entire Church

Subtopic: The Communion of Saints

Cognitive

Children will:

- Listen to stories about and retell facts about the lives of various saints
- Acknowledge Mary as Mother of the Universal Church and grow in understanding of her place in the Church (963-972)

Affective

Children will:

- Be grateful to Mary for her constant guidance and nurturing love for the Church
- Appreciate outstanding witnesses to holiness in the Church throughout the centuries

Behavioral

Children will:

- Express gratitude and honor to those men and women in the Communion of Saints who have been faithful witnesses to Jesus throughout the centuries
- Relate details of the lives of outstanding contributors to the life of the Church throughout the centuries

Subtopic: Grace, Sin and Forgiveness

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that through Jesus we are forgiven and made whole again
- Recognize the three types of grace: sanctifying, actual and sacramental
- Understand that God's grace active in our lives enables us to grow and develop virtues

Affective

Children will:

- Desire to grow in grace
- Experience gratitude for Jesus' forgiving love

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray for grace
- Celebrate God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance
- Give examples of times when they have responded to actual grace in their lives

Subtopic: Life Everlasting

Cognitive

Children will:

- Understand that we are called to put our trust in God that He will lead us to everlasting life
- Grow in understanding of the concept of the **beatific vision**, seeing God in all His glory (**1023-1028**)

Affective

Children will:

- Grow in appreciation for and desire the beatific vision of God

Behavioral

Children will:

- Recite the Acts of Faith, Hope and Love from memory
- Continue to practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy in response to God's love and in preparation for life everlasting

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 love 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 Sacraments of Service: 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 are footnotes in CCC 1210-1690)**
- Recognize that through the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, a person receives grace from the Holy Spirit and is strengthened spiritually in a time of physical, mental, 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 the 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, 1577-1584, 1596-1600)**
- Learn about Church history and the people and the development of Sacraments throughout the years **(1070-1073, 1095, 1174-1178, 1343-1344, 1396, 1471-1479)**
- Discover how the Sacraments celebrate, affirm, and strengthen our place in the Church **(1163, 1168-1170, 1362-1365) (Ps. 5; Mt. 13:31-32; Lk. 1 Cor. 12:12-30; Eph. 1:22-23)**
- 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 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
- Grow in gratitude for the many people, ordained, consecrated and lay who have contributed to the life of the Catholic Church
- Desire to make real for life that "we are a sacramental people"
- 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 (consecrated) life and ordained ministry
- Celebrate the Sacraments as experiences of Jesus' power and presence among us and as sources of grace for discipleship
- Accept themselves to become better able to be friends with others as they realize their calling to live in relationship with God, ourselves and others
- 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 that the theological virtues of faith, hope and love are gifts from God that help us grow in God's image and likeness (**1812-1827**)
- Recognize the **cardinal virtues** of prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude as foundational virtues for Christian living (**1805-1809**)
- Become familiar with the **capital sins** and their corresponding virtues
- Develop deeper understanding of the Ten Commandments and what each Commandment obliges and forbids (**2083-2557**)
- Understand that the moral life of Christians is supported by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which help persons to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit (**1830**)
- Know that healthy friendships help us to grow in love and live as faithful disciples of Jesus
- Recall that the family is the domestic Church and in familial relationships we are called to support one another in living morally
- 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**)
- Develop the connection between following the teachings of Jesus, the Scripture and the Church and achieving true happiness (**1723-1724**)
- Develop understanding of **social justice** and its basic principles:
 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 bring good stewards of creation.

Affective

Children will:

- Appreciate that God's laws lead to true freedom and happiness and desire to live them
- Recognize that the Bible is a source for study and prayer in order to grow in the understanding of ourselves and of God's loving will for us
- Value the example and contributions of those persons of virtuous living past and present and aspire to imitate them
- Desire to grow in the cardinal virtues
- Appreciate the principles of social justice and incorporate them into their value systems

Behavioral

Children will:

- Live the Greatest Commandment: to love God above all others, and to love others as they love themselves
- Develop and accomplish service projects as individuals and groups to demonstrate loving and serving the Lord and others (e.g., food drives, helping elderly neighbors with lawn care, serving at a soup kitchen, visiting the homebound or those in nursing facilities)
- Name examples of persons who have lived virtuous lives
- Discuss and list qualities of healthy friendships and other relationships (i.e., family, workplace, team, etc.)
- Discuss ways to implement the principles of social justice in their lives
- Make conscious choices, walking in the footsteps of Jesus, choosing what is moral and right over what is immoral and wrong

STANDARD: PRAYER

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that God loves each of us individually and invites each of us into the most important relationship of all: a relationship with Himself. **(356, 301, 27, 44-45, 54)**
- Know that prayer is an expression of our awareness of, and response to, God's presence, love, goodness and saving power **(2697)**
- Know that in ***spontaneous prayer*** we speak from the heart without planning or preparation **(2743)**
- Understand that ***devotional prayer***, such as: adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Stations of the Cross, the rosary, novenas, pilgrimages and veneration of relics, helps to personalize the mysteries of faith **(1178, 1674-75, 2678)**
- Know that genuine prayer is characterized by attention, confidence, perseverance and devotion **(2609-2612, 2650, 2742)**
- Recall and deepen their understanding that prayer in all its forms is the foundational element of building a relationship with God **(2745)**

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
- Appreciate hymns as prayers of praise
- Desire to strengthen their relationship with God through a more active prayer life
- Recognize the need for prayer to the Holy Spirit in making good moral decisions

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray for their needs and the needs of others
- Pray for the unity of the Church
- Pray for missionaries and those who spread the Gospel message
- Experience prayer based on Sacred Scripture, especially by reflecting on the writings of St. Paul
- Participate in devotional prayer
- Research the lives of saints for whom prayer was very important such as: Francis of Assisi, Therese of Lisieux, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Pope John Paul II, Walter Ciszek and others
- Experience a variety of prayer forms – silence, listening, song, gestures, spontaneous petitions, prayers of thanksgiving and others.
- Pray the rosary
- Explain how various forms of prayer nurture one's relationship with God

Vocabulary

Advent
Anamnesis

Apostolic Age
Ascension
Beatific Vision
Bloody Sacrifice of the Cross
Canonization
Capital Sins
Pride
Greed (Covetousness)
Lust
Anger
Gluttony
Envy
Sloth

Cardinal Virtues
Prudence
Justice
Temperance
Fortitude

Church Council
Church Fathers
Conscience

Contemplation
Council of Trent

Devotional Prayer
Doctrine
Dogma
Domestic Church
Sacred Triduum
Holy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Vigil
Eucharistic Sacrifice
Examination of Conscience
Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Hierarchy
Laity
Intercession
Lent
Liturgy
Magisterium
O Antiphons
Paraclete
Precepts of the Church
Passover
Praise
Sanctifier
Social Justice
Unbloody Sacrifice of the Cross
Mass

Persons of Faith

Pope John Paul II
Pope Benedict XVI
St. Augustine
St. Ambrose
St. John Chrysostom
St. Martin de Porres
St. Therese of Lisieux
St. Francis Xavier

St. Maria Goretti
St. Paul
St. Gregory the Great
St. Catherine of Siena
St. Francis of Assisi
St. Dominic
St. Thomas Aquinas
Walter Cizek

Memorization

The Four Marks of the Church
The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit
The Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Diocesan Confirmation questions
The cardinal Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Fortitude
The Precepts of the Church

Prayers To Know

Review prayers from previous levels
Nicene Creed

Church Documents

(For Familiarity, Recognition of Quotes)

Dogmatic constitution on Divine Revelation
Sharing the Light of Faith
Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World