

**1. Scripture**

1. Understand Salvation history as God's loving plan for our redemption through the Old Testament, fulfilled by Christ, and carried out through the Church today.
2. Know that it is important to know the Old Testament because Jesus read, studied, and prayed with it.
3. Grasp that the Old Testament helps us to understand Jesus and his promises as well as understand our Jewish heritage.
4. Be familiar with the types of books that make up the Old Testament; the Law, the Historical Books, the Wisdom Books, and the Prophetic Books; and be able to briefly describe them.
5. Know that the creation stories in Genesis are not intended to teach literal scientific fact, but the truth about our origins; that God is the source and the Creator of everything.
6. Know that the Bible is the Word of God because it is inspired; that is, God guided the authors of Scripture to write those truths he wanted to teach in the authors' own words.
7. Understand that a covenant is a sacred agreement God makes with us and to which he is always faithful. The first covenant was made with our first parents, Adam and Eve (*Gen. 2:15-17*), then with Noah (*Gen. 9:8-11*), Abraham (*Gen. 17:3-13*), and Moses (*Ex. 24:3-8*). Today our covenant with God is in Christ through our Baptism.
8. Be familiar with some of the principle Old Testament Scripture passages that speak of the Messiah who would save the Israelites: the Messiah who is Jesus (*Is. 9:5, Zec. 9:9, Ez. 34:23, Mi. 5:1*).
9. Identify some of the principal Old Testament prophets (*Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Amos*) and their message to God's people.
10. Understand that the Jewish people celebrate Passover to remember the night when their houses were "passed over" by the angel of death and were released from slavery.
11. Understand that Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples the night before he died and gave it new meaning; Jesus himself was the new Passover Lamb whose sacrifice saved the world, through which we are set free from sin and death.

**2. Creed**

1. Understand that God sent his Son Jesus as our Savior because of his great love for us.
2. Recognize that faith is a gift from God, strengthened through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
3. Know that we are called to struggle to overcome evil throughout our lives.
4. Understand that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
5. Relate that Jesus is God's Word made Flesh.
6. Understand that God has been faithful to us throughout history.
7. Tell that the Creed is our statement of belief as Christians.
8. Know that our Christian heritage is rooted in many signs and symbols of the Old Testament.
9. Identify Mary as the "Mother of the Church."
10. Recognize the holiness and fidelity of the great figures of the Old Testament.

**3. Worship & Sacraments**

1. Know that the Order of the Mass includes: Introductory Rite, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Concluding Rite.
2. Know that listening to the Words of Scripture attentively and receiving the Eucharist reverently during Mass helps us to become more Christ-like.
3. Explain the link between the Jewish Passover, the Last Supper, and the Celebration of the Mass.
4. Explain the difference between sacraments and sacramentals.
5. Know that the Church's liturgy has retained certain integral elements of the worship of the Old Covenant and adopted: reading the Old Testament, praying the Psalms, and above all, recalling the events of salvation history.
6. Recognize that the struggles and the triumphs of our ancestors in faith helped to deepen their relationship with God.
7. Understand that the Jesse Tree is an example of Advent tradition that helps us to recall important persons and events in Scripture before the birth of Christ.
8. Identify the Feast of the Epiphany of Jesus as the public manifestation of Jesus as the Promised One for Israel and the Gentiles.
9. Explain why Easter is the most important Christian feast and discuss some of the symbols associated with it (Paschal candle, lamb, Easter lily, etc.).
10. Understand that the Paschal Mystery is celebrated at every Mass.
11. Know that it is a serious obligation for Catholics to attend Mass every Sunday.

**4. Christian Morality**

1. Articulate the role of the Old Testament prophets, and their message of God's justice and mercy in the formation of God's chosen people.
2. Recognize the Old Testament Hebrew experiences of faithfulness, sin, and reconciliation reflect the Christian moral life today.
3. Recognize an occasion of sin as any person, place, or object, which may lead them to sin and away from the call to a life of holiness.
4. Recognize that conversion is turning away from sin and toward life in Christ.
5. Recognize that the obedience of the Old Testament leaders can guide them in making their own moral decisions.
6. Know that God and his goodness always prevail over sin and evil.
7. Know that they can call upon the Holy Spirit to help them to do what is right, even in difficult times.
8. Identify that many aspects of popular culture, including some magazines, video games, television, music, and the Internet, etc., are contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Ten Commandments.
9. Demonstrate that, by their words and actions, they respect life and the basic human rights of all people for the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.
10. Learn that habits of selfishness and moral weakness lead to sin.
11. Understand that they are to be chaste and pure in thoughts, words, and actions, both with self and with others.

**5. Prayer & Spirituality**

1. Discuss the importance of perseverance in prayer to overcome difficulties.
2. Recognize saints as witnesses of faith whose example they can emulate (*CCC 2683*).
3. Know that the Psalms, rooted in the Judaic community, were prayed by Christ and are used today as personal and communal prayer.
4. Know that God's covenant with us, beginning with Abraham, calls each person to a life of prayer in communion with him and continues with each person in prayer to renew them in God's likeness
5. Name and explain the Mysteries of the Rosary (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, Glorious).
6. Understand and practice the Church's traditions of Lenten devotions and penance.
7. Deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Rosary and other Marian Devotions.
8. List and explain the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

**6. Community and Service**

1. Demonstrate respect and cooperation for leadership within a community group.
2. Demonstrate respect for those being served because Christ resides in all people.
3. Recognize the works of leadership and service of Old Testament figures.
4. Discuss ways in which individuals, families, and parish communities can more fully live out Jesus' mandate to welcome the stranger.
5. Examine how love and justice are lived through the observance of the Ten Commandments.
6. Participate in prudent community service activities supporting life issues and care for the environment.
7. Recognize the importance of respecting the dignity of all people, especially the physically and emotionally challenged.
8. Research the contribution of Christian art and music to the Church and the world.
9. Discuss how the diverse cultural experiences of our faith strengthen and enrich our Universal Church.
10. Identify sin and selfishness as the cause of local, national, and global injustice.