

## 1. Scripture

1. Know that "Gospel" means "Good News." The Gospels are four accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus.
2. Know that the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are similar, and, therefore, called the synoptic gospels while the Gospel of John has a different, more reflective style and contains some additional stories.
3. Understand that the gospels are not biographies of Jesus, but are more like different portraits of him. Even though each gospel writer chose different stories to emphasize, all the gospels have the same message: Jesus is the Messiah, Son of God, who revealed the Father's love for us and saved us.
4. Know that Jesus' whole life and ministry took place in the area of Palestine, also called the Holy Land, and be able to identify important sites mentioned in the gospels, i.e., Nazareth, Galilee, Jerusalem, etc.
5. Realize that prayerful and attentive Scripture reading, especially of the New Testament, has the power to transform us and to assist us in the struggle to live the faithful Christian life.
6. Understand that the question that Jesus asks Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" must be answered by every Christian to develop a mature faith.
7. Know the basic elements of the Gospel message:
  - a. The Father's love is manifested in the good of creation.
  - b. We have been separated from God's plan for us because of sin.
  - c. Jesus is the bridge back to the Father
  - d. Following in the way of Jesus and participating in the sacraments he made available in the Church will lead us to Salvation.

## 2. Creed

1. Describe the Paschal Mystery as the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus.
2. Know the four reasons for the Incarnation:
  - a. So that Jesus could save us by reconciling us to God the Father.
  - b. So that we could know God's love for us.
  - c. To be a model for holiness.
  - d. To make us partakers of the Divine nature.
3. Know that the persons of the Holy Trinity are distinct, yet equal in nature and divinity.
4. Understand that through our Baptism, we are called and sent forth to continue Jesus' ministry in the world.
5. Explain the role of the apostles before and after the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.
6. Identify the unique origin and fullness of the Catholic Church rooted in Jesus' commissioning of Peter as head of the apostles and unifier of the Church.

7. Know that Christian faith is a personal response, through grace, to Jesus' invitation and requires a relationship with him to grow and mature.
8. Know that after death we will be judged by the Lord according to our deeds and adherence to the Gospel.
9. Identify some of the key differences between the Catholic Church and various Protestant denominations.
10. Explain that Mary is the Virgin Mother of Jesus and remained as such her whole life, so that with her whole being she was "Handmaiden of the Lord."
11. Know that saints who died for their faith are called martyrs.
12. Identify the Church as the People of God.

### **3. Worship & Sacraments**

1. Know that during the Penitential Rite (within the Introductory Rite at Mass) we acknowledge our sins and ask for God's mercy.
2. Know that the Lectionary is the official book of sacramental readings, arranged in a three-year cycle, used during the Liturgy of the Word.
3. Know that within the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we offer thanks and praise with Jesus to the Father.
4. Participate actively and reverently in the celebration of the Mass through proper gestures, responses, and songs.
5. List, understand, and define the signs and symbols of the Funeral Rite, e.g., pall, paschal candle, incense, and sprinkling of holy water.
6. Express that the Mass of Christian Burial (Funeral Liturgy) celebrates the triumph of Christ's victory of life over death.
7. Know that in the sacrament of Holy Orders, the three degrees of ordination are: deacon, priest, and bishop.
8. Know that sacraments are special encounters with Jesus at key points in our journey of life, and that Jesus continues to care for us through the sacraments.
9. Know that human life is changed at death but not ended, and that our bodies will rise again.
10. Understand that the Liturgical Year begins with the First Week of Advent.

### **4. Christian Morality**

1. Identify Jesus as God as well as truly human in all ways but sin, and follow his example of obedience to God's will.
2. Know that we should respect others and ourselves because of the presence of Christ in each one of us.

3. Understand that good moral decision-making is possible with the assistance of God's grace and is based on the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and teachings of the Church.
4. Name and discuss the meaning of the theological virtues (faith, hope, charity) and the cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance).
5. Understand that Christ's invitation to "...take up your cross and follow Me." (**Mt. 16:24**) demands rejecting destructive secular values and acting in truth and integrity.
6. Understand and recognize that the Church has the authority to provide moral teaching and direction through the Magisterium: The pope and the bishops in communion with him.
7. Practice an examination of conscience by reflecting on their spiritual, personal, and social responsibilities.
8. Know that prayer, grace, and self-discipline help to overcome temptation.
9. Understand that sexuality is a gift, and that its expression is reserved for those who are married, so that they can have children and show their love for one another.

### **5. Prayer & Spirituality**

1. Understand that Jesus is our role model of prayer.
2. Explain the meaning of the seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer and understand that this is a compilation of the Gospel message.
3. Discuss how trust in God is the basis for prayers of petition.
4. Understand and practice the Church's Advent tradition of the waiting and longing for the coming of the Lord.
5. Understand and practice the Church's Lenten tradition of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery.
6. Identify the Beatitudes and understand them as the pattern of the Christian way of life.
7. Reflect more deeply on their spiritual relationship with the Lord.
8. Learn that the rosary is the epitome of the Gospel expressing devotion to Jesus through Mary.
9. Explain and appreciate the role of Eucharistic spirituality and devotion, such as Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Benediction, and visits to the Blessed Sacrament.
10. Understand the importance of weekly participation in the Sunday Mass as the foundation of Catholic spirituality and prayer.

**6. Community & Service**

1. Know that as Mary brought Jesus into the world at the Nativity, and we bring Christ to the world through service.
2. Know that the pope and the bishops are the authentic teachers endowed with the authority of Christ to guard and preach the faith to believers and to guide us to put it into practice.
3. Know the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and identify how they are examples of putting faith into action.
4. Discuss the difficulties and challenges in today's culture for bringing hope and love to the suffering.
5. Identify men and women who have responded to God's call to holiness through their service to others.
6. Understand that it is only with the gift of Christ's grace and practice of the Theological and Cardinal Virtues, that they become true witnesses of Christ.
7. Live responsibly as stewards of God's creation, respecting life, themselves, and their environment by willingly sharing their time and God-given talents with the school, parish, and community.
8. Work together for peace and justice by cooperatively choosing and completing a service project.