

## 1. Scripture

1. Know that the Acts of the Apostles, which follows the gospels, describes the foundation and struggles of the first Christian communities.
2. Understand that the Letters of Paul and the other apostles (also known as the Epistles) apply Christ's message and teachings to the lives and circumstances of early Christian communities from Asia Minor to Rome.
3. Recall that the Beatitudes, found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, are the set of directives for all Christians that build on the Commandments, show us how to be happy, and help to lead us to eternal life.
4. Understand that the corporal and spiritual works of mercy put forth in Deuteronomy 15:11, and reiterated in the Gospel of Matthew, are important examples of service to others in which all followers of Christ must participate to gain eternal life.
5. Understand that Pentecost is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the birth of the Church as described in Acts 2:1-4.
6. Know that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are rooted in the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah 11:1-2 and belong, in their fullness, to Christ.
7. Learn that the fruits of the Holy Spirit are the benefits of leading a grace-filled Christian life as explained in Gal. 5:22-23.
8. Know that the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation, also called the Apocalypse, is a poetic and symbolic work that describes the end times and encourages Christians to embrace the cross and look to the coming of Christ at the end of the world.
9. Understand and be able to explain the divine authorship of the Scriptures.

## 2. Creed

1. Discuss the personal implications of believing in Jesus as Savior and following his teachings.
2. Recognize the Feast of the Ascension as Jesus' return to the Father in heaven and our pledge of bodily entrance into heaven (i.e., the resurrection of the body).
3. Tell that Catholic beliefs and practices are rooted in Scripture and Tradition.
4. Recite the Apostles Creed and explain its meaning and importance.
5. Understand that we offer prayers and Masses for those who have died, to both honor and benefit them on their journey to the Lord.
6. Explain the reality and possibility of eternal death, which Christ calls "hell," and understand that the principal punishment of hell consists of eternal separation from God, in whom is all happiness.
7. Know that the Church is made up of clergy, laity, and those in consecrated life.
8. Discuss the courage and faith of Mary's "Yes" to the Angel Gabriel's announcement and what her example means to us.

9. As Baptized Christians and members of the Communion of Saints, we intercede in prayer on behalf of those who have died.
10. Discuss the hope and goal of all humanity as heaven. It is the communication of eternal life and love with God, the angels, and saints, and is the fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme definitive happiness.
11. Recall that the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary refers to her being taken up body and soul into heaven after her life on earth, anticipating the resurrection of all members of the Body of Christ.

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

1. Know that Jesus instituted the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of Catholic life, worship, and unity.
2. Identify the principal parts of the Mass: Introductory Rite, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Concluding Rite.
3. Know that Sunday is the Sabbath set aside for worship, family and relaxation, and that Catholics have a serious obligation to attend Mass every Sunday.
4. Know that throughout history, Catholics have expressed faith and worship through song, drama, art, architecture, literature, and prayer.
5. Understand that the sacraments strengthen our faith, hope, and love and empower us to participate in the mission of the Church.
6. Know that, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the formation process for those who wish to become full members of the Catholic Church.
7. Know that the sacrament of Confirmation imparts the fullness of the Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit and celebrates the Confirmand's personal decision to follow Christ.
8. Understand that God's providential grace and love shapes and guides the Church, even through the times of conflict in Church history, including the Protestant Reformation, the Western Schism, and other events.
9. Know the importance of the missionary activity of religious orders in the growth of the Church.
10. Understand the effects of the Councils of Trent and Vatican II on the Mass and on the sacraments.
11. Realize that although the Church exists in the world and is affected by it, the Holy Spirit always guides, sanctifies, and protects it.

**4. Christian Morality**

1. Know that salvation has been merited for us by Jesus in the Paschal Mystery, i.e., the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.
2. Learn and practice the theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity.
3. Review the importance and the need for frequent reception of the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation.
4. Understand the universal call to holiness as exemplified in the lives of the saints.
5. Appreciate that the frequent reception of the Eucharist is the primary source of grace needed to faithfully live out the Christian life.
6. Know the existence of an objective moral law binding on all human beings.
7. Recognize that through the sacrament of Confirmation, they receive special sacramental grace to deepen their witness to Christ in their daily lives.
8. Know that the Magisterium (the pope and bishops) is the office of the Church that gives definitive and authoritative teaching on matters of faith and morals.
9. Learn the practice and use of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
10. Appreciate the obligation to promote the Christian principles of social justice, especially respect for life, in their community and society at large.
11. Know that the Precepts of the Church help us to participate in the life of the parish and pursue the minimum for a growth in holiness.
12. Understand that sexual desires are good and are given by God to be properly expressed in marriage.
13. Realize that is wrong to misuse their sexuality by looking at impure magazines and movies, or by daydreaming about sexual activity.

**5. Prayer & Spirituality**

1. Take leadership roles in working with students at other grade levels in preparing and directing a communal prayer service or liturgy.
2. Evaluate their practice of personal prayer and describe how they will make changes to strengthen their prayer lives.
3. Explain and use various expressions of prayer (vocal, meditative, and contemplative).
4. Discuss how prayer can deepen their appreciation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
5. Review how prayer inspired men and women of faith in the Scriptures.
6. Identify and explain each of the Theological Virtues (Faith, Hope, and Charity).
7. Explain and practice the Moral (Cardinal) Virtues (Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude) in order to strengthen their spiritual lives.
8. Pray for an open and generous response to God's call in their lives and future vocations.
9. Pray the rosary using all four sets of Mysteries as the basis for meditating on the life and mission of Christ.

**6. Community & Service**

1. Know that the power of the Holy Spirit is exemplified in the life, work, and witness of the saints.
2. Understand that faith, which flows from prayer, must be lived through good works.
3. Exercise the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
4. Discuss how Jesus' example of forgiveness and healing in the Gospels are a sign of hope and a mandate to imitate him.
5. Understand that the Church has a special mission to the poor and continually fulfills this call through the activities of local and global organizations.
6. Examine the importance of ecumenical cooperation in light of every Christians' Baptismal call to service.
7. Practice leadership and sharing of responsibilities of planning and carrying out service-oriented projects.
8. Know that the strengthening from the Holy Spirit, imparted through the sacrament of Confirmation, enables them to live a life of service.
9. Know that in the midst of conflict and evil, God raises up men and women of faith who work for peace, justice, and human dignity to further the Kingdom of God on earth.
10. Evaluate issues of homelessness, hunger, poverty, and illiteracy in their local, national, and international communities.