

Content Standard

Students in the Diocese of Bridgeport will understand Sacred Scripture as Salvation History, God's written manifestation of his love for us. The Old Testament lays the foundations for the fullness of God's Truth manifested in the person of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Sacred Scripture, along with Sacred Tradition, handed down to us from the Apostles comprise Divine Revelation.

Rationale

All Scripture is the inspired Word of God. The Church has always venerated the Scriptures as well as the Body of the Lord: both nourish and govern the whole Christian life. Since Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, study of the Word is essential for Christian life. God's Word is the source of all Revelation, as written in Scripture and contained in the Tradition of the Church.

*"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ Jesus"
(St. Jerome).*

Performance Standards

1. Students will know that Sacred Scripture is the "Speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit" (*CCC 81*).
 - a. Students will know that tradition and Sacred Scripture are bound closely together and communicate one with the other, for both of them flow out of the same divine wellspring and come together to form one thing – Divine Revelation (*CCC 80*).
2. Students will know that the Old and New Testaments together fulfill God's plan for our salvation (*CCC 140*).
3. Students will understand that the Gospels are the "heart of Scripture" because they are our principal source for the life and teachings of Jesus (*CCC 125*).
4. Students will know that there is power in the Word of God; power that serves the Church as her support, as well as her members; as strength for their faith, food for their soul, and a lasting font of eternal life (*CCC 131*).

Grade Level Competencies

By the end of the Pre-K—Kindergarten program, students will be able to:

1. Know that the Bible is a special book about God.
2. Know that Bible stories tell us about creation, our loving God, and the birth of Jesus.

By the end of Grade One, students will be able to:

1. Know that the Bible contains God's Word.
2. Retell the Bible stories of creation, the life of Jesus, and the Easter story.
3. Understand that Bible stories teach us the truth about God and how we are to live.
4. Know that God speaks to us through the Bible.

By the end of Grade Two, students will be able to:

1. Tell that the Bible is made up of two sections: The Old Testament (before Jesus' birth) and the New Testament (after Jesus' birth).
2. Recognize that the readings at Mass come from both the Old and New Testaments in the Bible.
3. Recall selected Bible stories from the Old Testament, and forgiveness and miracle stories about Jesus from the New Testament.
4. Know about the Ten Commandments and how we received them, and relate how they help us love God and others.
5. Know that the Gospels are part of the New Testament and are about the life and teachings of Jesus.
6. Retell the story of Passover and the Last Supper.
7. Know that the four Gospel writers are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

By the end of Grade Three, students will be able to:

1. Describe the Old Testament as writings about God's relationship with his chosen people, the Israelites.
2. Describe the New Testament as writings about Jesus who shows us how to live and love God.
3. Know that the Psalms are special Old Testament prayers of praise, thanksgiving, petition, and sorrow.
4. Tell that the Psalms are often set to music and are sung at Mass.
5. Retell the scriptural story of Jesus' Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

6. Know that we can have an experience of Jesus when we read, study, or pray with Scripture reverently and attentively.
7. Know that parables are stories Jesus used to teach about the Kingdom of God and be able to give several examples.

Students should have access to a Bible as a religion text in Grade 4 and all subsequent grade levels.

By the end of Grade Four, students will be able to:

1. Know that the Bible is a collection of books, which are organized into chapters and verses.
2. Locate various Scripture references in their individual Bible.
3. Understand that through the life and teachings of Jesus, we know how God wants us to live.
4. Know the names of the books of the Bible, which contain the Old Testament stories they are familiar with, such as: Creation, Noah, Moses, and the Israelites, etc.
5. Know that the Ten Commandments represent God's Covenant with the Israelites and their promise to keep God's laws.
6. Locate on a map where Jesus was born (Bethlehem), where he grew up (Nazareth), and where he died (Jerusalem).
7. Identify the major sections of the New Testament as the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, Paul's Letters, and Revelation, and be able to briefly describe each of them.

By the end of Grade Five, students will be able to:

1. Be familiar with the New Testament scriptural foundations for the sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation).
2. Be familiar with the New Testament Scriptural foundations for the sacraments of Healing: (Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick), and Service: (Holy Orders, Matrimony).
3. Know that the Pentateuch refers to the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), also known as the Law or the Torah by the Jews today.
4. Read and participate in a guided discussion of weekly Scripture readings, especially the Gospels, according to the liturgical year.
5. Understand that listening to and reading the Scriptures attentively and prayerfully is necessary for us to receive what God wishes to communicate to us through his Word.

By the end of Grade Six, students will be able to:

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.

By the end of Grade Seven, students will be able to:

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 different 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.

By the end of Grade Eight, students will be able to:

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 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 Scripture.