

Content Standard

Students in the Diocese of Bridgeport will understand the teachings of the Catholic Faith as derived from Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture. Students will demonstrate a willingness to accept, profess, and practice the faith that has been handed on to them in the Apostle's Creed.

Rationale

The Church in her doctrine, life, and worship perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she is and all that she believes (**DV8**). There is an organic connection between our spiritual life and our dogmas. Dogmas are lights along our path of faith; they illuminate it and make it secure (**CCC89**). "Faith seeks understanding" (**St. Anselm**). A more penetrating knowledge will in turn call forth a greater faith, increasingly set afire by love (**CCC 158**).

*He decreed statutes from Jacob and established the law in Israel which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children (**Psalm 78**).*

Performance Standards

1. Students will recognize God is One in Three Persons (*CCC 202*).
2. Students will know the Triune God is omnipotent, unconditionally loving, and ultimately knowable in this world only by faith (*CCC 268*).
3. Students will recognize God the Father as the Creator of everything seen and unseen (*CCC 190*).
4. Students will recognize Jesus as the Second Divine Person, made incarnate, and born of the Virgin Mary, for the redemption of mankind (*CCC 190*).
5. Students will understand that the Paschal Mystery is the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. It accomplished God's saving plan for mankind and is at the center of the "Good News" all Christians are to proclaim to the world (*CCC 571*).
6. Students will recognize the Holy Spirit as the Third Divine Person who is sent by the Father and the Son for our sanctification and to guide the Church on earth (*CCC 190*).
7. Students will understand that we believe that just as Christ is truly risen from the dead and lives forever, so after death the righteous will also live forever and will be raised up on the last day (*CCC 989*).

Grade Level Competencies

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

1. Identify God as the Creator through the beauty of nature.
2. Understand that God loves them through being loved by others, especially within the family.
3. Identify all things as gifts from God.
4. Identify God as our loving Father.
5. Know that Jesus is God's only Son.
6. Tell that Mary and Joseph were Jesus' parents on earth.
7. Know that we love and honor Mary in a special way.
8. Tell why Christmas and Easter are special times in our Church.
9. Demonstrate that the church building is a sacred place where we must act appropriately.
10. Know that our parish community is like a family.

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

1. Tell that God always was and will always be.
2. Recognize that God is the Creator of all things.
3. Understand that God's greatest gift to us is life.
4. Understand that God wants us to do good and avoid evil.
5. Realize that doing good and being kind pleases God.
6. Know that Jesus showed us how to live.
7. Identify Christmas as Jesus' birthday on earth.
8. Know that Jesus died on the cross for our sins but rose to life again on Easter Sunday.
9. Identify Advent as the time of preparation for Christmas and Lent as preparation for Easter.
10. Know that Mary is the Mother of Jesus, and our mother, too.
11. Tell that the church is a sacred place where the People of God gather.
12. Identify saints as people who lived holy lives.

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

1. Tell that we know that God is a Trinity of three Persons. God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit.
2. Describe the Holy Spirit as our helper sent to us by God to always live in our hearts.
3. Tell that sin is choosing to do wrong, displeases God, and hurts others, and us.
4. Know that God the Father loves us even when we have sinned.
5. Explain the difference between Original sin, Mortal (serious) sin, and Venial (less serious) sin.
6. Identify the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus as the source of the forgiveness of sins and our salvation.
7. Understand that we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus when we receive the Holy Eucharist.
8. Know that at Mass we gather to listen to God's Word, celebrate what Jesus has done for us, and receive his gift of the Eucharist, his Body and Blood.
9. Understand that Mary is the model for all Christians because she was always close to God and said "yes" to God with faith and trust.
10. Know that the Feast of All Saints (November 1) celebrates all people who belong to the Communion of Saints, both in heaven and on earth.

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

1. Understand that God always loves us and is faithful to us.
2. Identify that God is the Holy Trinity—one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Know that God reveals himself to us through Scripture and Tradition.
4. Know the Holy Spirit guides the Church on earth today.
5. Identify the marks of the Church as one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic.
6. Describe the events of the Triduum: the Last Supper, Jesus' suffering, death, burial, and the Resurrection.
7. Discuss the concepts of Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory.
8. Recognize Mary as the Mother of the Church.
9. Know that they become a member of the Communion of Saints through Baptism.

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

1. Relate that God is the author of all creation, and therefore all creation is good.
2. Know that God created us in his image with the ability to think, make choices, and love.
3. Identify Jesus as God's Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us and teach us how to live.
4. Identify the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Trinity, sent by the Father and the Son, to dwell within us and help us always choose the good.
5. Know that evil entered the world through the sin of our first parents.
6. Recognize that temptation is a struggle for everyone, but God's grace is always present to help us choose the good.
7. Understand that *all* sin hurts the whole Body of Christ and us, but God's grace, especially in the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation, heals us and restores us to God's friendship.
8. Identify Mary as the Immaculate Conception—saved from sin at the moment of her creation in her mother's womb.
9. Know that Mary never sinned throughout her life and so is the Church's example of perfect obedience, faith, and love of God.
10. Know that the Assumption celebrates Mary being taken up to heaven, body and soul, at the end of her earthly life.
11. Know that the Church was instituted by Christ.
12. Describe the Communion of Saints as the baptized on earth, the saints in heaven, and those in purgatory preparing for heaven.
13. Recite the Apostles Creed and explain its meaning and importance.

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

1. Know that the mystery of the Trinity is the core of our faith because it is the source of all other mysteries of faith.
2. Know that Jesus was the Messiah long awaited by the Israelites as the Redeemer of God's People.
3. Tell that Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. Know that the Church was founded on Pentecost through the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the Virgin Mary.
5. Understand that Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, is honored as patroness of the Americas.
6. Distinguish between Christian and non-Christian.
7. Explain that the purpose of the Christian life is to know, love, and serve God and to live forever with him in heaven.

8. Know that we respect and care for our bodies because they are temples of the Holy Spirit.
9. Relate that the Church celebrates the presence and actions of Christ through the seven sacraments.
10. Identify the Church as one in its teaching, holy in its faith, Catholic in its universality, and apostolic in its founding and continuity.

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

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.

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

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 would know God's love for us.
 - c. To be our model for holiness.
 - d. To make us partakers of the Divine nature.
3. Know 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 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.

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

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.