

Religion  
Pre-Kindergarten

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of religion in pre-kindergarten is to help children develop an awareness that God is the Creator of all things. They learn about God's gifts, especially the gift of family. Students learn about many celebrations and begin to learn about prayer.

**OUTCOMES:**

**A. God as our Creator, God is Here**

The students will:

- Talk about the fact that God is everywhere
- Learn that God created everything
- Talk about the ways people are alike and different
- Learn that God is always here
- Learn that God loves them
- Learn how God supplies our needs
- Observe that God makes things change and grow

**B. God's Gifts**

The students will:

- Learn about light and dark
- Learn that colors send messages
- Learn that all sounds name things
- Talk about how things feel

**C. I belong to a Family**

The students will:

- Understand that all families are not the same
- Learn different types of families
- Learn that all of us belong to God's family
- Learn that friends show us love
- Understand that we go to Church and there we have a Church family
- Understand that being a family means that they have responsibilities
- Begin to learn to share and help each other as well as others in the world
- Begin to learn rules of friendship
- Listen to Bible stories

#### **D. Jesus is a Friend**

The students will:

- Learn that they have feelings
- Learn that Jesus can help them if they are scared, sad, angry
- Know that Jesus can help us with our wishes
- Know that Jesus loves them just as they are

#### **E. Special Celebrations that We Share with God and our Family**

The students will:

- Celebrate and begin to understand the importance of the following celebrations and Church seasons
  - a. Halloween
  - b. Thanksgiving
  - c. Advent
  - d. Christmas
  - e. Valentines Day
  - f. Lent
  - g. Easter
  - h. Birthdays

#### **F. Our Church and Our Prayers**

The Students will:

- Begin to learn that prayer is a conversation with God
- Learn to do and recite the Sign of the Cross
- Learn the Our Father and Hail Mary
- Learn blessings for before and after meals
- Learn morning prayers that are said with our schoolmates
- Learn that prayer can be spontaneous and learn to say them at anytime
- Begin to learn about the saints who are special people in the Church
- Create prayers especially one about bullying
- Begin to attend Mass as a class with our schoolmates

#### **G. Human Sexuality**

The students will:

- Learn that God made each person different and special
- Know that each person is called by their special name
- Learn that God gave each of us special signs of our uniqueness
- Know that God wants us to take care of our own bodies
- Learn how to keep our bodies clean, eat healthy foods, rest, sleep, exercise and play
- Understand that our bodies are private and sacred

- Learn safety rules about touching
- Know the difference between a safe and unsafe touch
- Learn that a parent or guardian should not touch your private body parts except to keep you clean and healthy
- Learn the safety steps for unsafe touching; say no, get away and tell a grown up
- Know not to keep secrets about touching if someone breaks the touching rule
- Know that God will always help you

### **TEACHING STRATEGIES**

- Teacher directed
- Small group learning
- Cooperative learning groups
- Whole group learning
- Modeling behavior
- Brainstorming
- Personal sharing
- Audio tapes
- Music
- Props, posters, and portraits
- Visual literature and literature
- Anti-bullying lessons
- Safety guidelines
- Statues and crosses
- Rosary beads
- God's mail box
- Mary's garden
- St. John Church

### **ASSESSMENTS:**

- Observations
- Question and listening time
- Class projects
- Hands on activities
- Performance during activities

### **RESOURCES:**

- *Come Follow Me Pre-K* by Joanne Dwyer Welihan
- *Talking About Touching* by the Committee for Children
- *God Made Me Most Wonderfully* by L.J. Saltgast
- *I Wanted to Know All About God* by Virginie L. Kroll
- *God's Quiet Things* by Nancy Sweetland
- *All the Colors of the Earth* by Sheila Hamamaka
- *A Child's Story of Easter* Adaptation by Cherie Rayburn

- *A Child Was Born-A First Nativity Book* by Grace Maccarone
- *A Christmas Star* by Marc Pfister
- *Country Angel Christmas* by Tomie dePaola
- *Friends!* by Elaine Scott photo Margaret Miller
- *Families are Different* by Nina Pellegrini
- *Helping* Photographs by James Levin
- *We Are All Alike...We Are All Different* by the Cheltenham Elementary School Kindergartners
- *Jamaica's Find* by Juanita Havill
- *It's Mine!* by Leo Lionni
- *Two Eyes, a Nose, and a Mouth* by Roberta Grobel Intrater
- *Jonathan and His Mommy* by Irene Smalls-Hector
- *Chicken Sunday* by Patricia Polacco
- *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman
- Fiction and nonfiction literature pertaining to:
  - Christmas
  - Easter
  - Health
  - Our Earth
  - The Seasons
  - Animals
  - Plants
  - Communities
  - Cooperation
  - Family and Friends
  - Sharing and Caring
  - Respect for Others
  - Honesty and Fairness
  - Celebration
- Satellite library

## Religion Kindergarten

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of religion in kindergarten is to gain an appreciation for the many gifts that God, Our Creator, has given us as an expression of His love. The children will listen to Jesus' message of fairness and respect for all people and in doing so they will recognize their own uniqueness and that of others. They will join in the effort to live out their discipleship among their peers, families, school and parish communities.

### **OUTCOMES:**

#### **A. God as our loving creator**

The students will:

- Discover creation as a gift from God
- Know that God keeps us in his loving care because He made the world and all things
- Experience prayer as a conversation with God: listening, gesture/movement, spontaneous, individual and communal
- Recite the Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory be to the Father, blessings at meals, morning and evening prayers
- Say spontaneous prayers of praise, sorrow and thanksgiving
- Take care of themselves, others, animals, plants and all creation
- Explore creation as an expression of God's love
- Experience symbols as a way of communicating
- Know that in Baptism we become children of God through a relationship with Jesus
- Understand that we belong to God's family, the Church
- Visit the church as God's house
- Understand that we were made to know, love and serve God here on Earth and in heaven because He loves us
- Say words that refer to God with respect
- Shape attitudes that focus on fairness to others in the family and the school community
- Discover Jesus as the greatest gift of creation
- Experience: honesty, sharing, concern for others, self-control, happiness
- Know that God sent Jesus, His Son, to be a human being like us
- Know that God chose Mary to be the Mother of Jesus and our Mother too
- Read Bible stories about the life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and God's love for us

- Participate in the Eucharistic celebration with the school community and parish family
- Learn about the saints who are God's special friends

### **B. Moral Formation**

The students will:

- Develop an awareness of God's gifts of nature
- Respect plants and animals and all of God's creation by caring for them
- Thank God for the gifts of seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and feeling so we can enjoy creation
- Use our five senses to appreciate God's blessings of creation
- Show that our creation is an expression of God's love for us
- Respect all of God's children and treat others kindly as we would like to be treated
- Formulate a prayer/pledge promising to be a friend to all
- Always try to help people of different abilities and talents
- Appreciate our own uniqueness and that of others
- Develop awareness that we have been created to know, love and serve God
- Cooperate with others by doing projects for people who need our help
- Learn to know God through our parents, families and teachers, when we listen at Mass or pray with others

### **C. Human Sexuality**

The students will:

- Realize that each person is different and special
- Learn that God gave each of us special signs of our uniqueness such as our fingerprints
- Know that each person is called by their special name
- Become aware that they are beginning to be responsible for the well being of their bodies
- Realize that it is important to keep our bodies clean, to eat healthy foods, to get enough rest and sleep, to exercise, to play and to pray
- Know that caring for ourselves is a way of showing respect for life
- Understand that our bodies are private and sacred
- Never allow anyone to touch a part of our body if it makes us feel uncomfortable or embarrassed
- Learn that a parent or guardian may touch our body only to help us stay clean or healthy

- Be aware of words describing appropriate and inappropriate touches
- Discuss feelings that make us happy, sad, frightened, sick, well and lonely
- Know that Jesus reached out to all people to make them better

### **TEACHING STRATEGIES**

- Teacher directed lessons
- Whole class activities
- Small group activities
- Working with partners
- Individual activities
- Brainstorming
- Modeling
- Anti-bullying lessons
- Safety guidelines

### **ASSESSMENT**

- Questions at the end of each lesson
- Chapter worksheets
- Performance during activities
- Class projects
- *John Collins Writing Program*

### **RESOURCES**

- *We Believe God Made the World* Sadlier
- *The Beginners Bible* by Don and Chris Wise
- *Our Father* by Piera Paltro
- *Hail Mary* by Piera Paltro
- *Glory to the Father* by Piera Paltro
- *Mysteries of the Rosary* by Holy Cross Family Ministries
- *Talking About Touching* by the Committee for Children
- *Bye-Bye Bully* by J. S. Jackson
- *Just a Bully* by Gina and Mercer Mayer
- *The Ant Bully* by John Nickle
- *Nora the Nonapus* by fifth-grade students of Estes Hills Elementary School
- *Disney's Lessons from the Hundred Acre Woods Collection* Advance Publishers, L.C.
- Fiction and Nonfiction Literature pertaining to:
  - Christmas
  - Easter
  - Friends and Family
  - Sharing and Caring
  - Creation

- Technology
- Satellite Library

Religion  
Grade One

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of religion in grade one is to introduce the students to the message and teachings of Christ Jesus, to lead them to worship and prayer, and to motivate them to serve others.

**OUTCOMES:**

**A. Growing in God's Love**

The students will:

- Create an experience of the love of Jesus through the community
- Understand that Jesus gave us the sacraments of His love
- Recognize that through Baptism we become children of God
- Understand God, Our Creator, made and loves us
- Foster growth as a member of the Church community
- Recognize that Mary is Jesus' mother and our mother too
- See that selfishness is the source of all injustice
- Understand that reconciliation is the healing of all injustice
- Learn the Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to God
- Understand that Jesus died on Good Friday and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday
- Understand that we will die and go to heaven with God
- Learn that Jesus teaches us to pray
- Recognize that the Holy Spirit gave us love, peace, and joy
- Facilitate expressing the love of Jesus in the Christian community
- Recognize that God cares for us through our parents, families, teachers, etc.
- Continue the instruction of the Mass
- Encourage participation in liturgy and prayer
- Read and listen to Gospel stories of the parables and cures of Jesus
- Learn simple Mass responses

**B. Moral Formation:**

The students will:

- Grow to love those persons with special needs
- Show responsibility to help the poor
- Elicit ways in Church that children can help the poor

- Encourage visits to the elderly especially grandparents
- When seeing somebody being hurt by another, we should get help
- Understand that we belong to God's family, the Church
- Love nature as a part of building a peaceful world
- Try to establish attitudes and habits that will establish a relationship with the Earth

### **C. Human Sexuality**

The students will:

- Understand that God calls us to respect and love our uniqueness
- Realize that each individual is unique and accept that fact in themselves and in others
- Appreciate themselves, feel good about themselves, build up self-esteem
- Explain that we are created in God's image and should imitate Jesus and the way He treated others with respect
- Realize that all persons of every race and culture, rich or poor, deserve respect, kindness, and love; we will formulate a class prayer regarding respect for themselves
- Understand that we go through many changes as we grow but we remain the same person throughout life
- Emphasize that God is the cause of these changes
- Appreciate that there are certain people who help them grow and develop; God has given us our families and friends
- Appreciate their bodies as gifts from God; our bodies are sacred and holy because God is present in us
- Each one of us is responsible for taking care of our bodies
- Understand the importance of saying "no" or "get away" if a situation makes them feel uncomfortable
- Discuss feelings such as being lonely, frightened, happy, lost, excited, healthy, and sick
- Stress Jesus' example of being loving and kind to those who were sick
- Be invited to pray for sick people

### **TEACHING STRATEGIES**

- Teacher directed
- Tapes and music
- Cooperative group work
- Posters
- Flash cards
- Anti-bullying lessons

- Advent wreath
- Safety guidelines

## **ASSESSMENTS**

- Chapter and unit testing
- Role playing
- Observations
- Question and listening time
- Hands on activities

## **RESOURCES**

- Textbook *We Believe* by Sadlier
- Children's Bible by Rev. Joseph A. Grispingo, S.M., S.S.L.
- *Guided Meditations for Children* by Jane Ayer
- Talk About Touching by Committee for Children

Religion  
Grade Two

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of religion in grade two is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and to enter into a sacramental relationship with Jesus and with the Christian community for the first time through the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

**OUTCOMES:**

**A. Jesus as a gift to the child within the Christian community**

The students will:

- Discover Jesus within the Christian community
- Use Scriptural passages
- See how they share in the gift of God's life through Baptism
- Celebrate the renewal of their Baptismal promises using water and candles
- Examine relationships with others in the Christian community
- Understand and recite the Act of Contrition
- Learn to form their consciences in harmony with Catholic morality and to recognize their freedom and responsibility in choosing between good and evil
- Participate in a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation with individual confession
- Discover the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist
- Worship God through Eucharistic celebrations on Sundays, holy days, and on the first Friday of each month
- Actively participate during each Mass

**B. Jesus came to bring peace and justice**

The students will:

- Discover Jesus as the source of peace in the Christian community
- Use prayer to ask for strength and courage to be peacemakers among their peers and to respect all human life
- Broaden their concept of peace
- Talk about ways they can be life-givers to help the human family that is suffering from war, violence, poverty, etc.
- Foster an attitude of being peacemakers
- Play fair, show respect for others
- Treat others as they want to be treated

### **C. God wants us to be thoughtful of others**

The students will:

- Respect the uniqueness of each person
- Treat each child with dignity and respect because we are God's children
- Be made aware that their bodies deserve to be treated with dignity and respect
- Be able to test criteria for evaluating behavior as good/bad, safe/dangerous, kind/selfish

### **D. Human Sexuality**

#### **A. Personal Safety**

The students will:

- Identify specific fire safety rules
- Demonstrate knowledge of fire safety rules
- Recognize the need for gun safety rules
- Demonstrate what to do if somebody wants them to play with a gun
- Demonstrate safe responses when answering the phone
- Hang up on obscene phone callers
- Identify two ways to apply the Always Ask First Rule
- Describe appropriate responses to being offered gifts
- Describe appropriate responses to being asked to go somewhere with someone

#### **B. Touching Safety**

The students will:

- Identify safe, caring touches
- Identify unsafe touches
- Identify grown-ups to tell if they are being abused
- Identify unwanted touches
- Say "No" to touches they don't want
- Identify the safety steps
- Demonstrate an understanding that it's never a child's fault if someone breaks the Touching Rule
- Demonstrate knowledge that the Touching Rule also applies to peers
- Demonstrate knowledge that they can ask for help on behalf of a friend

#### **C. Assertiveness and Support**

The students will:

- Identify a support system of grown-ups
- Recognize that talking to someone about a situation from the past can be helpful
- Identify appropriate times to talk to grown-ups

- Recognize bullying behavior
- Respond assertively when other children try to bully them
- Identify whom they would ask for help if the bullying continues

## **TEACHING STRATEGIES**

- Flashcards
- Charts
- Posters
- Bulletin boards
- Prayer table
- Rosary prayed throughout the school during October and May
- May shrine to Mary
- Music tapes, CDs- songs
- Teacher directed discussions
- Activities- reaching out to the less fortunate in the community- Canton Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul- clothing, food baskets at Christmas

## **ASSESSMENTS**

- Role playing
- Quizzes
- Oral presentations
- Chapter and unit tests
- *A Little Catechism* within the students' textbooks

## **RESOURCES**

- *The Children's Bible* by Rev. Joseph A. Grispingo, S.M., S.S.L
- *The Mass for Children* by Rev. Jude Winkler OFM, Conv.
- *Guided Meditations for Children* by Jane Reehorst, BVM
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*-Libreria Editrice Vaticana
- *Practical Liturgies for the School Year* by Sr. Mary Fearnon, RSM
- *Talk About Touching* by Committee for Children

Religion  
Grade Three

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of religion in third grade is to invite the children to participate in the life of the Church. The mission and structure of the Church are presented with emphasis on the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit. Saint and Christian heroes offer role models. Activities, prayers, and practices stress the universal nature of the Church as a sign of God's kingdom.

**OUTCOMES:**

**A. The Church, the Christian community, continues the mission of Jesus**

The students will:

- Use Scriptural passages
- Develop a deeper awareness of the triune God
- Discuss how God calls us into a deeper relationship through the sacraments which gives us grace; God's life and love
- Name his/her role as a Christian in the Church community
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the mission of Jesus is our mission
- Understand and live out the mission of the Church
- Know God better by studying the rules of the Church, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Realize they have the duty as Christians to protect human rights
- Serve God better by imitating the servant Jesus and the lives of the Saints

**B. God calls us to love all people**

The students will:

- Realize that each person has his/her own unique capabilities
- Understand that we need family and friends to meet our needs for love, caring, sharing, and acceptance
- Understand that people have to work at making friends because friendship involves giving and receiving
- Discuss the importance of respecting every person's body and their own

**C. Our loving God helps us to be personally responsible for our actions and forgives us when we make wrong choices:**

The students will:

- Be able to realize that AIDS is not caught through everyday activities or casual contact
- Be able to perceive themselves as good persons who are capable of making good choices
- List and explain specific rules and laws that promote health, safety and wellness
- Give examples of refusal skills that can be used to say, “No” to any risk behavior

**D. Human Sexuality**

**A. Personal Safety**

The students will:

- Identify specific fire safety rules
- Demonstrate knowledge of fire safety rules
- Recognize the need for gun safety rules
- Demonstrate what to do if somebody wants them to play with a gun
- Demonstrate safe responses when answering the phone
- Hang up on obscene phone callers
- Identify two ways to apply the Always Ask First Rule
- Describe appropriate responses to being offered gifts
- Describe appropriate responses to being asked to go somewhere with someone

**B. Touching Safety**

The students will:

- Identify safe, caring touches
- Identify unsafe touches
- Identify grown-ups to tell if they are being abused
- Say “No” to touches they don’t want
- Identify the safety steps
- Demonstrate an understanding that it is never a child’s fault if someone breaks the Touching Rule
- Demonstrate knowledge that the Touching Rule also applies to peers
- Demonstrate knowledge that they can ask for help on behalf of a friend

### C. Assertiveness and Support

The students will:

- Identify a support system of grown-ups
- Recognize that talking to someone about a situation from the past can be helpful
- Identify appropriate times to talk to grown-ups
- Recognize bullying behavior
- Respond assertively when other children try to bully them
- Identify whom they would ask for help from if the bullying continues

### TEACHING STRATEGIES:

- Flashcards
- Charts
- Posters
- Bulletin boards
- Prayer table
- Tapes, CDs
- Teacher directed discussions
- Praying the Rosary and explaining the mysteries of the Rosary
- May shrine to Mary
- Prayer services
- Reaching out activities- Canton Food Pantry, cancer research donations, Peyton Center, packaging Rosary beads, Walk for Hunger donations
- Projects

### ASSESSMENTS:

- Chapter and unit tests
- Oral presentations
- Cooperative learning groups
- *A Little Catechism*- within the students' textbooks

### RESOURCES:

- *Children's Bible* by Rev. Joseph A. Grispino, S.M.,S.S.L.
- *Saints Kit* by Sr. Mary Kathleen Glavick, S.N.D.
- *Saints in Action* by Catherine Odell, Margaret Savitskas
- *Prayers for Everyday* by Kathleen Holtsnider, Pamela Danni, Margaret Bradley
- *School Year-Church Year* by Peter Mozar
- *Guided Meditation for Children* by June Reehorst, B.V.M.
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*-Libreria Editrice Vaticana
- *Practical Liturgies for the School Year* by Sr. Mary Fearnon, R.S.M.

- *Talk About Touching* by The Committee for Children
- *Bible for Young Catholics, Paraphrase and Commentary*  
by Anne Eileen Heffernan, F.S.P.
- *Blessings and Prayers through the Year* by Elizabeth  
McMahon Jeep

Religion  
Grade Four

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of religion in grade four is to develop a sense of justice and fair play to form the starting point for the exploration of Christian morality as a way of life. Emphasis is on our covenant relationship with God and responsibility to the community through the commandments, beatitudes, and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

**OUTCOMES:**

**A. God calls us into a deeper relationship through the commandments and the beatitudes:**

The students will:

- Understand that the Ten Commandments, God's Laws of love, were given to the chosen people, the Israelites, through Moses
- Use Scriptural passages
- Be able to understand that God's love is shown for us in the beatitudes and the commandments
- Understand that the last seven commandments tell us how to love others
- Learn that our final judgment will be based on how we have loved God and how we have loved others

**B. We are called by God to be poor in spirit**

The students will:

- Realize we are completely dependent on God
- Understand that Jesus always responded to people with love, compassion, mercy, and forgiveness
- Learn to understand that the Church, the people of God, carry out Jesus' works of mercy in today's world
- Do service by visiting the elderly and delivering their meals
- Dress down monthly and the proceeds will go to charity

**C. God asks us to share our talents with others:**

The students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding that each person is created by God with his or her own special attributes and capabilities
- Be aware that growth is a life long process
- Realize that each growth stage brings capabilities, limitations, and responsibilities
- Appreciate the fact that one's feelings affect others

- Come to know that each person is a member of a family which is united by love and commitment to each other
- Become aware that beliefs, values and goals are developed, shared and lived within the context of the family

**D. Jesus helps us to love unselfishly and responsibly:**

The students will:

- Be able to understand and appreciate the importance of loving unselfishly and responsibly
- Have a sense of reverence for their wonderful bodies made by God and how to protect them from AIDS
- Articulate the morality of drug use and be helped to deal with peer pressure

**E. Human Sexuality:**

The students will:

- Build on the teaching concepts of the Talking About Touching program that has been presented in the lower grades
- Review safety rules
- Increase emphasis on the ability to judge risks
- Discuss the concept and the appropriateness of others to have power over them
- Consider the meaning of peer pressure
- Introduce the idea of babysitting and the concept of appropriate touch
- Talk about the internet and on-line safety

**TEACHING STRATEGIES**

- Charts
- Posters
- Bulletin boards
- Prayer table
- Teacher directed discussions
- Cooperative learning groups
- Role playing
- Tapes, CDs
- Praying the rosary and explaining the mysteries of the rosary
- May shrine to Mary
- Prayer services
- Reaching out activities- Walk For Hunger donations, meals on wheels (weekly), Christmas baskets, St. Francis House coat collection, hurricane donations
- Projects

- Dramatize Stations of the Cross

## **ASSESSMENTS**

- Chapter and unit tests
- Quizzes
- Oral presentations
- Cooperative learning groups
- *A Little Catechism* – within the students textbooks

## **RESOURCES**

- *Children's Bible* by Rev. Joseph A. Grispingo, S.M.,S.S.L.
- *Saints Kit* by Sr. Mary Kathleen Glavick, S.N.D.
- *Saints in Action* by Catherine Odell, Margaret Savitskas
- *Prayers for Everyday* by Kathleen Holtsnider, Pamela Danni, Margaret Bradley
- *School Year-Church Year* by Peter Mozar
- *Guided Meditation for Children* by June Reehorst, B.V.M.
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*-Libreria Editrice Vaticana
- *Practical Liturgies for the School Year* by Sr. Mary Fearnon, R.S.M.
- *Video Alone at Home*
- *Video Now I Can Tell My Secret*
- *Keeping Children Safe Program* by Archdiocese of Boston
- *Bible for Young Children* by Ann Eileen Heffernan, FSP

Religion  
Grade Five

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of religion in grade five is to enrich the faith of the students through an in-depth presentation of the sacraments and the Creed. Scriptures and the lives of saints highlight our heritage of belief, belonging, healing and service.

**OUTCOMES:**

**A. Growing in our relationship with God through the sacraments:**

The students will:

- Use Scriptural passages
- Understand that through the sacrament of Baptism we become members of God's family, the Church
- Be led to understand that Eucharist and Confirmation are sacraments of full invitation into the Church along with Baptism
- Know the sacraments of Penance/Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick as sacraments of healing
- Know the sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders as sacraments of commitment

**B. The Gospel of love call us to work for economic and social justice for all people**

The students will:

- Use Scriptural passages
- Develop an awareness that we must work to develop care for the whole of God's creation
- Understand that action for social justice is part of our Christian call
- Discover that social morality is based on four values: truth, justice, freedom, and love (Pope John Paul XXIII)

**C. We are called to appreciate the gift of sexuality:**

The students will:

- Use Scriptural passages
- Learn that each person is a loveable, unique gift from God with individual talents and abilities
- Realize that each child comes from a unique family
- Be enabled to appreciate that our fertility, which is a gift of God, originates in one of the body systems called the reproductive system

### **D. God gave us Jesus to help us grow in independence and responsibility**

The students will:

- Identify with Jesus' compassion towards the sick as they express compassion towards persons living with AIDS and other serious illnesses
- Be aware of God's gift of the immune system and its destruction by the AIDS virus
- Learn refusal skills to say "no" to any risk behavior that would harm their bodies

### **E. Human Sexuality**

The students will:

- Review safety rules outlined in the program
- Be able to judge risks
- Discuss when it is appropriate for others to have power over them and when it is not
- Discuss peer pressure and power
- Discuss babysitting and appropriate touching
- Discuss Internet safety and online safety

### **TEACHING STRATEGIES**

- Charts
- Flashcards
- Posters
- Bulletin boards
- Prayer table
- Teacher directed discussions
- Cooperative learning groups
- Role playing
- Tapes, CDs
- Praying the rosary and explaining the mysteries of the rosary
- May shrine to Mary
- Prayer services
- Projects
- Reaching out activities – Walk for Hunger donations, cancer research donations, Canton Food Pantry donations, Hellenic Nursing Home visitations

### **ASSESSMENTS:**

- Chapter and unit tests
- Quizzes
- Oral presentations
- Teacher directed discussions
- Cooperative learning groups

- *A Little Catechism* – within students textbooks

**RESOURCES:**

- *The Children's Bible* by Rev. Joseph A. Grispano, S. M., S.S.L.
- *Saints Kit* by Sr. Mary Kathleen Glavich, S.N.D.
- *Saints in Action* by Catherine Odell & Margaret Savits
- *Prayers for Everyday* by Kathleen Holtsnider, Pamela Danni
- *School Year- Church Year* by Peter Mazar
- *Guided Meditations for Children* by Jane Reehorst, B.V.M.
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church-Liberia* Editrice Vaticana
- *Saints and Feasts Days* by S.N.D. of Ohio
- *Practical Liturgies for the School Year* by Sr. Mary Fearon, R.S.M.
- *Keeping Children Safe* by Archdiocese of Boston
- *What Would You Do* by Linda Schwartz
- *No More Secrets For Me* by Oralee Wachter

Religion  
Grade Six

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of religion in grade six is to gain an understanding of the Covenant. This includes, but is not limited to the following: forming the Covenant, building the covenant, redefining the Covenant and the Covenant fulfilled through Jesus. Sixth graders also study the Books of the Bible and many Saints. Sixth graders explore the sacraments and the Ten Commandments and the Laws of the Church. The students also continue to explore morality. In addition, students will participate in seasonal liturgies, celebrations and devotions in order to increase their awareness of tradition and communal worship.

**OUTCOMES:**

**A. The Covenant as a testament between God and Israel in the Jewish scriptures and between God and the whole human community in the Christian scriptures established by the blood of Jesus Christ**

The students will:

- Present the Bible as a revelation of God's saving love
- Show how God's saving love was manifested toward the people of God in the Jewish scriptures/ Old Testament
- Understand how God used special people to form the Israelites into a community
- Understand that God chose leaders to help bring about the promised Covenant

**B. We are called by God to always choose life**

The students will:

- Recognize the unborn as human beings
- Understand that we are to respect all life
- Realize that respect for life includes caring for the Earth and our environment

**C. We are called to care for the gift of sexuality given to us by our loving God**

The students will:

- Discuss the ways the gift of human sexuality relates to the whole person: physical, emotional, spiritual, social and intellectual
- Understand that friendships help to meet our need for love, care and acceptance
- Be aware of different types of peer pressure and ways to resist and handle peer pressure

- Discuss the changes of puberty and recognize that fertility originates in the reproductive system

#### **D. God's unconditional love helps us to be loyal to one another**

The students will:

- Demonstrate an appreciation of God's unconditional love and relate that understanding to treatment of AIDS and other serious illnesses
- Be able to understand the importance of loving unselfishly and responsibly, and appreciate that sexual activity and sexual intercourse have meaning only within a marriage commitment
- Be helped to deal with peer pressure related to experimentation with sexual activity or drugs
- Demonstrate an understanding of what bullying is and ways to combat it

#### **E. We are all responsible for our own safety and the safety of others**

The students will:

- Review safety rules outlined in the program, *Keeping Children Safe*
- Be able to judge risks
- Discuss when it is appropriate for others to have power over them and when it is not
- Discuss peer pressure and power
- Discuss babysitting
- Discuss appropriate touching
- Discuss Internet safety

### **TEACHING STRATEGIES**

- Teacher directed
- Cooperative group work
- Partner work
- Incorporation of relevant and affirming music and film

### **ASSESSMENT**

- Traditional testing
- Journal writing
- Oral performance assessment
- *John Collins Writing Program*

### **RESOURCES**

- *The New Testament New American Bible*, Catholic Book Publishing Co., New York, NY, 1986

- *We Believe: We Are God's People*, William H. Sadlier Inc., New York, NY, 2004
- Weekly and/or monthly catholic periodicals

Religion  
Grade Seven

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of religion in grade seven is to learn about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ through the study of the scriptures and Gospels. Students will begin to develop an understanding of their own spiritual being. In addition, students will participate in seasonal liturgies, celebrations and devotions in order to increase their awareness of tradition and communal worship.

**OUTCOMES:**

**A. The personal message and mission of Jesus**

The students will:

- Recognize the Jewish heritage of Jesus
- Use scriptural passages to listen and understand Jesus' words and deeds
- Gain greater knowledge of Jesus through an informed reading of the Gospels.
- Use scriptural passage to better understand the message of Jesus
- Examine the mission of Jesus the Christ
- Explore the meaning of the mystery of Christ for contemporary Christian life

**B. The respect of human dignity and human rights**

The students will:

- Understand that humans are fashioned in God's image have inherent right that should be protected and promoted
- Become aware that Christians are called to be peace builders
- Write reflections on the impacts of bullying
- Understand how to share their sexuality the way God intended
- Develop an awareness of how emotions impact their behavior
- Realize and appreciate all human life's physical, psychological and spiritual aspects is fundamentally good
- Learn to be compassionate and comforting to those suffering AIDS
- Be enabled to understand the stages, signs and symptoms of HIV infection
- Understand that AIDS is a syndrome caused by HIV virus

### **C. We are all responsible for our own safety**

The students will:

- Review safety rules outlined in the program, *Keeping Children Safe*
- Be able to judge risks
- Discuss when it is appropriate for others to have power over them and when it is not
- Discuss peer pressure and power
- Discuss babysitting
- Discuss appropriate touching
- Discuss Internet safety

### **TEACHING STRATEGIES**

- Teacher directed
- Cooperative group work
- Partner work
- Incorporation of relevant and affirming music and film

### **ASSESSMENT**

- Traditional testing
- Written reports
- Oral performance assessment
- *John Collins Writing Program*

### **RESOURCES**

- *Fireside Catholic Youth Bible*, Fireside Catholic Publishing Co., Wichita, KS, 2002
- *New Testament, Faith and Witness*, William Sadlier Inc., New York, NY 1998
- *Creed, Faith and Witness*, William Sadlier Inc., New York, NY 1998
- Weekly and/or monthly catholic periodicals

Religion  
Grade Eight

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of religion in grade eight is to help the students gain a greater knowledge of the history and origins of the Catholic Church through textbook readings and activities, reading Bible passages, video material and through the use of the Internet. Another goal is that the students develop a deeper respect for all life and for human life in particular. Students will also learn about the role of human sexuality as: love giving, life giving, and appropriate only within marriage. There is great emphasis on teaching the importance of taking care of and having kindness towards all people. Students will be expected not only to identify the many outcomes of the religion curriculum, but also to live them through their day-to-day behaviors and actions. In addition, students will participate in seasonal liturgies, celebrations and devotions in order to increase their awareness of tradition and communal worship.

**OUTCOMES:**

**A. The History and Mission of the Roman Catholic Church**

The students will:

- Gain a greater knowledge of the origins and purpose of the Church
- Explain the role the Holy Spirit for the Apostles in the beginning of the Church
- Understand how the Eucharist as the center and the heart of Christian life
- Detail the importance and explain the origination of the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Orders and Holy Eucharist
- Survey the history of the church from the Post-Apostolic Era to the present
- Explain the significance of the sacrament of Reconciliation as a recourse for those who were guilty of public sins
- Describe the leaders of the early Church and the Roman Empire and their importance to the spread of the Church
- Identify and explain the principles and importance of the Edict of Milan
- Explain the importance of the sacrament of Marriage and its history
- Detail the history of the church through the Dark Ages
- Explain how the decline in the Roman Empire and the rise of Islam tested the unity of the Church
- Describe the importance of the Church in Europe in the Middle Ages
- Identify and explain the principle that the Church is a sacramental community because the Church is the Body of Christ, present and active today in a visible way

- Identify the ideas that Martin Luther had about Baptism and the Eucharist
- Describe the development of the Mary devotions
- Explain how the ravaging of Europe from 1300-1500AD by war and pestilence affected the church
- Recognize the need for reform of the life and leadership of the Church between 1500-1600AD
- Explain in detail the principles of The Council of Trent from 1545-1563AD
- Describe the work of missionaries in Africa, Asia and in the Americas
- Detail the rise of the secular spirit and its challenge to the church's influence in the world
- Describe the ever changing role of the Church in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in particular the importance of the reforms of the second Vatican Council from 1962-1965AD
- Detail the growth of the church in Africa, Asia, and in South America
- Examine the mission of the Church as evangelization and preaching guided by the magisterium
- Recognize that the church must also be an outward sign or sacrament of the presence of God's kingdom in the human history by embodying the vision and values of the kingdom
- Understand that the whole people of God – priests, religious and laity are invited to join in the priestly prayer of Christ
- Describe the meaning and mystery of the Church in the modern world
- Identify and understand the importance of all people to participate as a community of believers through the sacraments
- Recognize the “Communion of Saints” and the celebration of the liturgy in honor of the Communion of Saints on November 1
- Identify and describe the belief that Mary is the model above all others of the holiness of life to which the church is called and she is called the Mother of the Church
- Identify and give examples that show that the meaning of the word “catholic” means universal
- Describe the importance and role of the Eucharist to Catholics
- Recognize the ongoing apostolic tradition of the Church
- Detail the importance of the missionary spirit and the Church's call for us to break down the barriers of racism, sexism, and ageism that divide the global community

- Understand and be able to explain that like Jesus, the leaders of the Church come to serve

### **B. All life is good but human life is precious**

The students will:

- Recognize and understand the right to life of all people including: unborn children, those on death row, the elderly, the sick, those in Third World countries, the homeless, and political refugees
- Discuss that human beings are unique because of our free will to make choices, and we are made in God's image
- Recognize and explain that the greatest act of human creativity is to create new human beings
- Detail that we have a responsibility to care for those who cannot care for themselves
- Identify and describe the life choices that show respect for God within us and in others
- Identify and understand the importance of respect for our bodies and the bodies of others by making good choices
- Gain an increased awareness that at every stage of fetal development there exists a unique human person by detailing the steps of human development from conception to birth
- Recognize that abortion is morally wrong because abortion destroys a human being that has dignity and rights
- Identify that abortion is also physically and emotionally risky to the mother
- Understand that despite the choices people may have made, we have a responsibility to care for others as we are all brothers and sisters
- Recognize that living according to Christian principles and Gospel values will be difficult but we should not give in to peer pressure because Jesus said "Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in heaven"
- Recognize that we need to be concerned about the rights and dignity of all human beings, not just some
- Understand that we cannot turn our backs on oppression of minorities in our cities or refugees seeking freedom
- Comprehend and be able to discuss that we will be judged by how well we loved and treated others
- Recognize that by learning to treat others justly, fairly, and with respect today will help them to be good Christian leaders of the Church tomorrow
- Identify and explain what bullying is and describe bullying situations

- Apply our Christian principles to avoid bullying behaviors in ourselves and to help those who have been victims of bullying

**C. We are called by God to respect our sexuality and to express our sexuality in ways that are life giving, love giving and appropriate**

The students will:

- Identify and explain that positive self-image is known as self-esteem, which grows in time, patience, courage and faith in God and self
- Appreciate that positive self-image and self-esteem comes from knowing that you are loved and give love in return
- Detail that love is a commitment founded in the constant, unconditional and unfailing love of God for us
- Understand that we do not love all persons with the same intensity
- Appreciate that God loves us so much and that we are made in God's image and that God lives in us so we are God's temples
- Identify and apply the church's teachings regarding sexuality and sexual activity
- Recognize that sexual intercourse is a moral good only within marriage and sexual intercourse outside of marriage is wrong
- Identify that the purpose of sexual intercourse is to be life-giving out of the mutual love of husband and wife
- Detail the role of self-control, self-discipline, prayer, conscience, the reception of the sacraments and the devotion to Mary, the model of chastity, as elements in developing a Christian approach to decision making around sexuality
- Become aware that mature Christian sexuality, in whatever state of life, demands a life enriching commitment to other persons and the community
- Recognize that premarital sex is wrong and chastity is expected in the single state and in the priesthood and religious life
- Identify that sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and venereal diseases (VD) as well as HIV/AIDS can be transmitted through sexual contact
- Identify the aspects of a good friendship as a preparation for the permanent commitments of marriage, religious life or in all mature celibate relationships
- Identify and realize that the media can have a negative effect on respect for sexuality because the human body and

human sexuality may be promoted in a way that is often degrading to the dignity of a person, most often women;

- Identify and explain how the media and our culture often promote instant gratification through sex appeal rather than through authentic love and caring
- Appreciate that teenagers should be more involved with group social settings rather than in single dating and “steady dating”, which often results in sexual activity and pregnancy when teenagers are too young to deal with the responsibilities of parenting
- Reaffirm that abortion is always wrong and recognize that abortion is the intentional removal of a developing human being from the mother’s womb by any means
- Recognize as Christians, we are opposed to violence and killing especially in war
- Identify that the sacrament of Penance is always available for those in need of peace, healing and reconciliation

#### **D. Our Loving God and others help us to integrate sexuality into our lives as Christians**

The students will:

- Understand that every person has the right to care, comfort, and consolation when living or dying with AIDS
- Recognize that as members of the Church and as followers of Jesus, we have a responsibility to reach out with compassion and understanding to those exposed to or experiencing AIDS
- Understand that discrimination or violence against persons with AIDS is unjust and immoral through the Gospel teachings
- Discern the facts from the myths about HIV and AIDS
- Identify AIDS as a virus and be able to detail the stages of the HIV infection
- Explain that HIV is transmitted through body fluids during sexual contact and/or by sharing intravenous needles or syringes
- Understand that no one should fear the transmission of HIV or AIDS through ordinary school activities or through other casual contact

#### **E. We are responsible for our own safety and the safety of others**

The students will:

- Review safety rules outlined in the program, *Keeping Children Safe*
- Be able to judge risks

- Discuss when it is appropriate for others to have power over them and when it is not
- Discuss peer pressure and power
- Discuss babysitting
- Discuss appropriate touching
- Discuss Internet safety

## **TEACHING STRATEGIES**

- Teacher directed lessons
- Class discussions
- Role playing
- Cooperative group work
- Partner work
- Online research and activities
- Readings from the Bible
- Incorporation of relevant music and films

## **ASSESSMENT**

- Quizzes and tests
- Oral reports
- Written reports
- *John Collins Writing Program*
- Group projects and presentations

## **RESOURCES**

- *Church History: A Course on the People of God* Sadlier
- *Morality: A Course on Catholic Living* Sadlier
- *Fireside Catholic Youth Bible*
- Satellite classroom library
- *Keeping Children Safe* by Archdiocese of Boston
- Weekly and/or monthly Catholic periodicals

