

## RELIGION CURRICULUM - GRADE 8

Websites providing FREE lesson plans, ideas, computer games, and teacher formation :

[www.faithfirst.com](http://www.faithfirst.com) ; [www.catechist.com](http://www.catechist.com) ; [www.blestarewe.com](http://www.blestarewe.com); [www.harcourtreligion.com](http://www.harcourtreligion.com); [www.sadlierwebelieve.com](http://www.sadlierwebelieve.com)

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	DOCTRINE	CONTENT UNDERSTANDINGS	RESOURCES/TEXT ALIGNMENT	ASSESSMENT
<p>Why do we search for God?</p> <p>What is the mission of the Church?</p> <p>How can we come to know what is means to be Catholic?</p> <p>What do Catholics believe?</p> <p>What truths of our faith are contained in the Nicene Creed?</p> <p>Why do Catholics begin prayer using the “Sign of the Cross” Who was God the Father? The Son? The Holy Spirit?</p> <p>How did the Holy Spirit act in the life of Jesus?</p> <p>Why was Mary the “most blessed of all women”?</p> <p>What are some of the images of the Church? How can they help us understand our relationship with God?</p>	<p><b>Divine Revelation</b></p> <p><b>The Creed is a Summary of Faith</b></p> <p><b>Trinity</b> (I believe in God, the Father Almighty...I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord...I believe in the Holy Spirit)</p> <p><b>Mary</b> (by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary , and became man)</p> <p><b>Images of the Church</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain that as people of faith we seek an understanding of God’s plan</li> <li>Know that our Catholic identity comes from knowing the Creed and the mysteries of God’s revelation</li> <li>Recognize that our shared beliefs are evident in our commitment to the mission of the Church</li> <li>Recognize that Christians believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.</li> <li>Explore the story of the Catholic Church from Old to New Testament</li> <li>Know that the truths (articles of faith) of the Catholic Church are summarized in the Creeds of the Church</li> <li>Describe the teachings of the Apostles, Athanasian, and Nicene Creed</li> <li>Understand the Apostles’ and Nicene Creed</li> <li>Know the truths of our faith contained in the Nicene Creed</li> <li>Examine our understanding of the Trinity</li> <li>Recall that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary whom God prepared and preserved from original sin</li> <li>Participate in the Stations of the Cross</li> <li>Know that God, the Holy Spirit, anointed, empowered and guided Jesus</li> <li>Discuss the traditional teaching that Mary remained sinless throughout her life, was “most blessed of all women”, and is honored as a saint</li> <li>Discuss the meaning of the Assumption, the virginal conception of Jesus, the Paschal mystery, and the Mystery of Redemption.</li> <li>Review the meaning of the Hail Mary and The Angelus</li> <li>Name and recognize the images: Body of Christ, People of God, Community of Disciples, Bride of Christ, Sheepfold, Herald of God’s Word, Servant, Pilgrim People, Vine and Branches</li> </ul>	<p><i>Create a special prayer space in a prominent place in the room.</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.catechist.com">www.catechist.com</a> for unique prayer ideas with children.</p> <p>Start each class with the 3min online retreat from <a href="http://www.loyolapress.com">www.loyolapress.com</a> . Classrooms with an interactive white board can do this easily.</p> <p>1Cor 15:3-5</p> <p><b>DVD:</b> <i>The Visual Bible -Matthew-Luke-Acts</i>, order from: <a href="http://www.visual-bible.com">www.visual-bible.com</a></p> <p><b>Books</b> <i>Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul</i> <i>Exploring the Bible</i> (St. Mary's Press) <i>Being Catholic</i> ( St. Mary's Press) <i>Meeting Jesus</i> (St. Mary's Press)</p> <p>Use <i>The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers</i> (St. Mary’s Press, 2009) as a resource for various topics throughout the year.</p> <p><b>CD:</b> <i>Light- the Musical</i> a rosary put to music that young people really enjoy. Purchase from a local artist at <a href="http://www.quietwatersproductions.com">www.quietwatersproductions.com</a> (Stations of the Cross, also)</p>	<p>Write a creed expressing your beliefs. Then compare to the Apostles’ Creed.</p> <p>Compare &amp; contrast the Nicene and Apostles’ Creeds.</p>

<p>What is the meaning of the Marks of the Church?</p> <p>What is the Communion of Saints?</p> <p>Is life everlasting?</p> <p>What does “Amen” mean when we recite the Creed?</p> <p>What does Jesus expect of those who profess this faith?</p> <p>What is discipleship?</p> <p>What role does family play in one’s maturing?</p> <p>When does a person begin to think about their vocation in life?</p> <p>What is free will?</p> <p>How can we know right from wrong?</p> <p>What is the Magisterium?</p> <p>How can the changes that occur in a person’s maturing body</p>	<p><b>Marks of the Church</b> (We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church)</p> <p><b>The Communion of Saints</b> (I believe...in the communion of saints)</p> <p><b>Life Everlasting</b> (I believe in...life everlasting.)</p> <p><b>Amen.</b></p> <p><b>Maturity and Discipleship</b></p> <p><b>Discipleship &amp; Morality</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define One, Holy, Apostolic and Catholic (in Nicene Creed)</li> <li>Describe the mystical body of Christ and its union in grace, prayer and good works</li> <li>Recall that the sacrament of Reconciliation restores our relationship with God Recognize the presence of The Spirit in our lives today</li> <li>Explain how the Catholic Church is the continuation of Jesus’ presence among us</li> <li>Recognize that Christians believe in the resurrection of the body</li> <li>Explain that particular judgment takes place when we die</li> <li>Explain that last judgment is the attainment of nonattainment of the Kingdom of God at the end of the world</li> <li>Demonstrate “I believe, I agree”</li> <li>Jesus calls each of us to be His disciple and friend. He calls us to follow Him on mission to work to build up the Kingdom of God.</li> <li>Working in Jesus’ name and serving Jesus in those we meet is called “ministry” and through this loving action, we are disciples.</li> <li>For adolescents, the family is the place where their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs are usually first met so that they continue to mature. In His family, Jesus grew in wisdom, age, and grace in preparation for public ministry.</li> <li>When spiritual needs are met, (prayer, study, the sacraments), adolescents grow in discipleship, finding real happiness, a moral compass, and begin discernment about God’s call to a vocation in life.</li> <li>Human beings have free will. They can choose to make good moral decisions.</li> <li>Catholic moral values are based on Natural Law, The Old Law, The Law of the Gospel and Church Teaching.</li> <li>The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church; the Church continually deliberates about current moral issues to guide the people.</li> <li>Moral maturity develops begins in adolescence, a time also when new hormonal surges cause strong, changeable emotions which can positively or negatively affect moral choices.</li> </ul>	<p>Jn15:5 Acts 10:38</p> <p>Use <i>Peaceprints – Sr. Karen’s Paths to Nonviolence</i> (2008, Interfaith Peace Network of WNY; available at Catholic Union Store) to study the life of a religious sister who was murdered after dedicating her life to peace and nonviolence in the Eastside of Buffalo. (Contains both a DVD about her life and essays written by those who knew her).</p> <p>Acts 15:1-35</p> <p>Jn 17:21 Jn 1:1-18</p> <p>Acts 2:33</p>	<p>Create a collage showing the Marks of the Church in contemporary society.</p> <p>Research a saint and describe how the Trinity empowered this person.</p>
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<p>What are appropriate expressions of affection between teens that are dating?</p> <p>What is chastity?</p> <p>What can one do who as already been sexually active, but wishes to follow God’s plan and live chastely?</p> <p>What is child sexual abuse and how can the internet contribute to these dangers?</p> <p>What are internet safety strategies that help us to remain safe and chaste?</p> <p>Why are sexual acts outside of marriage sinful?</p> <p>Why is sexuality a gift to human fulfillment?</p>	<p><b>(Contains mandated content from the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People”)</b></p>	<p>group social settings rather than single dating situations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young teenagers should work on communication skills with parents so acceptable guidelines can be set regarding places to visit while group dating, curfews, etc.</li> <li>• Affection is appropriate for dating, but passion belongs in marriage</li> <li>• Chastity is the virtue that gives us the strength to love others maturely, generously, and joyously, in either a celibate or marital state of life. It helps us use our sexuality according to God’s plan. It works for our own and society’s greatest good</li> <li>• Sexual intercourse is not a normal part of an adolescent’s life. Young people who have been sexually active need not be currently sexually active.</li> <li>• God created husband and wife to become two in one flesh. Holiness means being pure, because we sin against our own bodies if we have intercourse outside of marriage.</li> <li>• Prayer, good friendships, and the sacraments help teenagers follow the example of Jesus, who preached against sexual sins and urged his disciples to have pure motives.</li> <li>• Sexual acts outside of marriage are not simply recreational, as society would have us believe, but serious sin.</li> <li>• Identify ways that the gift of our sexuality can be devalued.</li> <li>• <b>Know ways to use <u>the internet safely and</u> appropriately to avoid harmful and dangerous behaviors and relationships.</b></li> <li>• Sexual sins include the following: adultery, contraception, fornication, incest, masturbation, molestation, pornography, prostitution, rape, (including date-rape), sexual harassment. The Church has always taught that these sexual acts are sinful because they use sexuality in ways that fails to respect the very meaning and purposes of sexuality. They keep people from obtaining the good things for the sake of which God created sexuality. They undermine the dignity and happiness of human life.</li> <li>• Sexuality is to be understood in the context of human fulfillment. By our very nature, we long for the good things that we need to have happy and fully human lives. By our very nature, we seek to escape the loneliness of the human condition and find an enduring love, a love that gives all of itself to another. This is the vision and challenge for people of all ages who are continuously growing in understanding the gift of their sexual nature.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Safeside Internet Safety Curriculum Kit</i> –Video 924 in our diocesan library</p> <p><i>Who Knew?: the Internet Safety Issue</i> from Channing Bete Co. <a href="http://www.channing-bete.com">www.channing-bete.com</a></p>	
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