

BASIC ELEMENTS OF CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION **Seventh Grade/Ages 11, 12, 13**

Catechesis shapes the minds, hearts, and spirits of believers, forming them as disciples (GDC, no. 87).

WE BELIEVE *(in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit).*

In every human heart, there is a hunger for God.

One can know God through creation, human reason and divine revelation.

God the Father established a relationship of intimacy with his people through his Son, Jesus.

Through Jesus one is led to the love of the Father in the Spirit.

Jesus' life, teachings and miracles reveal God's compassion and love.

Jesus Christ is Son of God and King of heaven and earth.

The writings of the New Testament (Christian Scriptures) reveal the fulfillment of God's covenant in Jesus Christ.

Another title for the Holy Spirit is Paraclete which means advocate and consoler.

WE BELONG *(to one, holy, catholic and apostolic church and the communion of saints).*

Mary is the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of God. God's grace was with Mary from the moment of her conception.

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is what gives Christians hope for eternal life.

At the particular judgment at the time of death, one enters heaven, hell or purgatory.

The last judgment will happen when Christ returns in glory.

The Church throughout the year unfolds the whole mystery of Christ—incarnation, resurrection, ascension, Pentecost and the awaiting of his second coming at the end of time.

The Church year also includes feast days in honor of Mary and the saints.

The Church is the Body of Christ and temple of the Holy Spirit.

All baptized Christians are called to discipleship and evangelization—to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus.

Sunday celebrates Jesus' resurrection. It is a holy day of obligation—a day of worship and rest from unnecessary work.

WE RESPOND *(as disciples of Christ helping to build the kingdom of God).*

Stewardship is being a disciple of Christ who shares time, talent and treasures with family, community, and Church.

Through the sacrament of baptism, Catholics are committed to the common good which fosters dignity, prosperity and peace for all.

God calls people to the married, ordained, consecrated religious or single vocation.

One shares in God's life through the sacraments which have their foundation in Jesus.

There are various ministries in the Church to which the Holy Spirit calls members to participate.

The teachings of Jesus and the Church help one to make good moral decisions.

Through meditative and centering prayer one is able to reflect and be in the presence of the Lord.

One form of prayer to God is a litany in which one seeks the intercession of Mary and the saints.

One's dignity and sexuality and that of others are gifts from God to be honored and respected.

Chastity is the virtue that helps one see and put into practice God's plan for the body, person and sexuality.

Respect in thought, word and action needs to be shown for the various aspects/issues of sexuality.

Personal integrity, discipline, and control need to be exercised in order to make good decisions regarding sexual intimacy and relationships.

Sexually transmitted diseases and substance and sexual abuses harm one's body and spirit.

It is important to reflect on the meaning of discipleship.

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Seventh Grade/Ages 11, 12, 13

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WE RESPOND *(as disciples of Christ helping to build the kingdom of God).*

Some ways to deepen one's relationship with God include spontaneous prayer, prayers of cultural/liturgical significance, and the following formal prayers, beliefs and practices:

- Sign of the Cross
- Grace Before/After a Meal
- Our Father/The Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Morning Prayer
- Angel of God
- Act of Contrition
- Communion Fast
- Communion Regulations
- The Ten Commandments
- Apostles' Creed
- The Rosary
- The Two Commandments of Love
- Liturgical Year
- Jesus Prayer
- Act of Faith
- Act of Hope
- Act of Love
- Seven Sacraments
- Beatitudes
- Mysteries of the Rosary
- The Stations of the Cross
- Morning Offering
- Memorare
- Hail Holy Queen
- The Five Precepts of the Church
- Parts of the Mass
- The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy
- The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy
- The Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Four Gospels
- The Golden Rule

New Prayers, Beliefs and Practices introduced at this level are:

- Nicene Creed
- Come, Holy Spirit (Prayer to the Holy Spirit)
- Angelus
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Regulations for Fast and Abstinence
- The Three Theological Virtues
- The Four Cardinal Virtues

BASIC ELEMENTS OF CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION

Eighth Grade/Ages 12, 13, 14

Catechesis shapes the minds, hearts, and spirits of believers, forming them as disciples (GDC, no. 87).

WE BELIEVE *(in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit).*

Humans were created in a state of original holiness and justice and enjoyed friendship with God. The fall from the state of original holiness and justice is called original sin.

Humans are subject to ignorance, suffering, death and the inclination to sin due to original sin.

God's love and goodness will triumph over all evil and pain.

God's plan is for all people to be freed from the bondage of sin and evil through the redemptive suffering of his Son, Jesus.

The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to be with the Apostles in the early Church and continues to be with the Church today.

WE BELONG *(to one, holy, catholic and apostolic church and the communion of saints).*

Mary is mother of the universal Church.

Christianity has its roots in Judaism.

The Church is the sacrament of salvation.

The Church is Trinitarian: that is, was planned by the Father, founded by Jesus Christ and manifested by the Holy Spirit.

The Church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic is both a human and divine institution.

Eastern and Western (Latin) Churches that are in communion with Rome are part of the Catholic Church.

The Church is called to ecumenism—to dialogue and strive for the unity of all Christians.

The magisterium is the teaching office of the Church that guides God's people in the truth.

The Church is infallible when the pope and the bishops in communion with the pope proclaim a doctrine of faith and morals for the belief of the faithful.

The Church year consists of feasts and seasons in honor of Jesus (liturgical cycle) and Mary and the saints (sanctoral cycle).

WE RESPOND *(as disciples of Christ helping to build the kingdom of God).*

Stewardship is using time, talent and treasure as means for personal and social justice.

The parish and Church are partners in stewardship.

The family is called the domestic church as parents have the first responsibility to teach their children faith, hope, charity, prayer, and virtues.

The kingdom of God comes in its fullness only in heaven, but it is furthered through the works of Christians on earth.

The seven sacraments are signs of grace through which each person can participate in God's life.

Charity is the greatest virtue that calls one to love God and neighbor.

The precepts of the Church help guide its members in their responsibilities and obligations.

A way of living as a disciple of Jesus is to perform the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Contemplative prayer is a silent attentiveness and love of God.

The Liturgy of the Hours is the public daily prayer of the Church; this prayer gives praise to God and is an extension of the celebration of the Eucharist.

Novenas and pilgrimages are prayerful devotions in which one prays to God through the intercession of Mary and the saints.

Sexual attraction and sexual feelings are normal and natural but need to be controlled with self-discipline and the grace of God.

Sexual activity and sexual intercourse have meaning and purpose only within a marriage covenant.

Stereotyping and other forms of discrimination devalue a person's God-given dignity.

It is important to reflect on what it means to be a part of salvation history and a member of the Catholic Church.

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BASIC ELEMENTS OF CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION Eighth Grade/Ages 12, 13, 14

Catechesis shapes the minds, hearts, and spirits of believers, forming them as disciples (GDC, no. 87).

WE RESPOND (*as disciples of Christ helping to build the kingdom of God*).

Some ways to deepen one's relationship with God include spontaneous prayer, prayers of cultural/liturgical significance, and the following formal prayers, beliefs and practices:

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father/The Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Grace Before/After a Meal
- Glory Be
- Angel of God
- Act of Contrition
- Communion Fast
- Communion Regulations
- The Ten Commandments
- Apostles' Creed
- The Rosary
- The Two Commandments of Love
- Liturgical Year
- Jesus Prayer
- Act of Faith
- Act of Hope
- Act of Love
- Seven Sacraments
- Beatitudes
- Mysteries of the Rosary
- The Stations of the Cross
- Morning Offering
- Memorare
- Hail Holy Queen
- The Five Precepts of the Church
- Parts of the Mass
- The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy
- The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy
- The Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Four Gospels
- The Golden Rule
- Nicene Creed
- Come, Holy Spirit (Prayer to the Holy Spirit)
- Angelus
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Regulations for Fast and Abstinence
- The Three Theological Virtues
- The Four Cardinal Virtues

New Prayers, Beliefs and Practices introduced at this level are:

- Prayer of St. Francis
- Mary's Prayer (Magnificat)
- Psalm 23
- Confiteor
- The Seven Capital Sins
- The Four Last Things

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