

GRADED COURSE OF STUDY – BENCHMARKS

As adopted by the Diocese of Columbus – Department of Religious Education March, 2007

Kindergarten:

Make the Sign of the Cross with appropriate words and gestures.

Grade One:

Treat the Bible respectfully.

Know that God made them and all people in God's image.

Recite with reverence the following formal prayers: the Our Father, the Hail Mary and Glory Be.

Make the connection between Advent and Christmas, and Lent and Easter as special times of preparation and celebration of the birth and resurrection of Jesus.

Identify that God in His love created them unique and valuable, with gifts and abilities to share.

Give examples of actions that are kind and hurtful.

Grade Two:

Explain that the Bible is the Word of God which is to be read and listened to with reverence and respect.

Explain that God created everything good because of God's love for us.

Explain that God made them and all people in God's image and likeness.

Describe that God created all people, loves all people and wants all people to love God and one another.

Demonstrate how God is active in their life through persons who love and care for them.

Describe Jesus, God's Son, as their friend who loves them.

Describe God as Trinity, three persons in one God.

Describe that they are a member of God's family, the Church.

Explain that they are a member of the Catholic Church.

Know that Mary and Joseph are Jesus' mother and father on earth who offer us an example of family life.

Describe that God wants them to be happy now and with God forever in heaven.

Describe that one can pray anywhere at anytime and for many reasons, alone or with others.

Explain the church building is a special and holy place to pray, and worship God with reverence.

Explain sacred spaces and objects and their use in church, e.g., altar, tabernacle, ambo, baptismal font, crucifix, candles, Book of the Gospels and Lectionary.

Demonstrate reverence in liturgical gestures and postures, e.g., standing, sitting, kneeling, praying the Our Father with hands extended, and walking in procession.

Identify the importance for Catholics of participating in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

Explain how the Book of the Gospels is reverently carried to the altar at the beginning of Mass.

Identify and explain that Jesus Christ is with us in the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Describe the two main parts of the Mass: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Identify the signs, symbols, and rites of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Recognize that sacraments are special signs of Jesus Christ's presence and love.

Explain the Eucharist as the Body and Blood of the Risen Christ.

Explain the difference between ordinary bread and Holy Communion.

Explain the procedure for receiving Holy Communion.

Identify the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a special celebration of God's forgiveness.

Give examples of how persons in their life love and care for them.

Explain that because they are made in God's image they are to share their gifts and talents given by the Holy Spirit with others.

Describe loving and non-loving actions.

Describe that sin is choosing to disobey God and freely choosing to do what he/she knows is wrong.

Distinguish between a sin, a mistake and an accident.

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Grade Three:

Demonstrate listening to and reading the Bible with reverence and respect.

Give examples of living the Two Great Commandments.

Identify the Gospels by telling about the life and teachings of Jesus.

Demonstrate that God created all people, loves all people and wants all people to love God and one another.

Discuss the ways God is active in the lives of people in the world.

Describe that God the Father sent Jesus to show us God's love.

Explain that Jesus is God's Son, their friend and brother.

Discuss the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Describe the Church as a worshipping and praying community.

Discuss that death is the beginning of new life with God in Heaven.

Memorize an Act of Contrition.

Explain the importance of participating in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

Describe that Jesus Christ is present in the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Explain how the Mass is a celebration of community.

Recall the story of the Last Supper and its connection to the Holy Eucharist.

Explain that the Mass is a meal, a memorial of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and a prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God the Father.

Illustrate that Baptism is a sacrament by which we share in the life and love of God, receive the Holy Spirit, become a member of the Church and sin is forgiven.

Explain the sacraments of initiation, healing and service.

Explain that the bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass.

Demonstrate reverence for the Eucharist.

Explain that every person is loved by God and is made in the image and likeness of God.

Explain that they are a unique expression of God's love.

Explain that we love God by loving others.

Explain some of Jesus' teachings that relationships should be based on a life of service to others, e.g., the Last Judgment (Matt. 25).

Give examples of how we can forgive others because God forgives us.

Describe the need to ask forgiveness for their non-loving actions.

Know that sin is freely choosing to do what is wrong or failing to do what is right.

Explain the difference between a sin, a mistake and an accident.

Explain that we show our love of God in the way we take care of the created world.

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Grade Four

Explain that the New Testament is the story and teachings of Jesus and the Christian community.

Memorize and recite the Ten Commandments.

Describe how the Gospels tell about Jesus' life, teachings, death and resurrection.

Explain the relationship between miracles and faith.

Explain how the Holy Spirit's coming on Pentecost affected the growth of the early Church.

Explain that Jesus Christ is our Savior who redeemed us by his life, death, resurrection and ascension.

Describe grace as a sharing in God's life which gives us a special friendship with God.

Explain how the precepts of the Church relate to their lives.

Describe the meaning of the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

Express thanksgiving, praise, petition and sorrow to god in various formal and spontaneous prayers.

Demonstrate the use of Sacred Scripture in prayer, e.g., with the Psalms, and other books of the Bible, the Magnificat, the Prayer of Simeon.

Memorize the use of various formal prayers alone and with their class, e.g., The Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Apostles Creed, the Angelus, the Memorare, the Act of Contrition, Acts of Faith, Hope and Love.

Describe the various liturgical seasons of the year: Advent/Christmas; Lent/Easter; Pentecost and Ordinary Time; what they prepare for and celebrate and the colors used.

Identify and explain the Holy Days of Obligation.

Explain the meaning, the steps and procedure for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Identify the importance of being in touch with his/her feelings in forming relationships with God, others and self.

Give examples of how they can respect their own and others' bodies.

Describe the connection between our love of God and the way we treat others and all creation.

Demonstrate their awareness of the giftedness of all life and the dignity of all persons.

Explain that the teachings of Jesus are about our loving and serving others.

Illustrate how Mary and the saints were people of great faith, witness, service and discipleship.

Dramatize how they can serve others in the parish, at home and at school.

Define conscience and its development.

Examine ways that all people are responsible for taking care of God's gift of creation.

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Grade Five

Explain why the Gospels can be called the “Good News” of Jesus Christ.

Share some parables and miracle stories of Jesus as related to his identity and mission, e.g., the Wedding Feast at Cana, the Feeding of the Multitude, the Sower and the Seed.

Explain that Jesus, the Apostles and some early Christians had Jewish roots.

Name and explain the major events in Jesus’ life: his birth, Baptism, Calling of the Apostles, Sermon on the Mount, Raising of Lazarus, the Last Supper, his Agony in the Garden, his trial, sufferings, death and resurrection/ascension.

Explain some of the teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7 e.g., don’t judge others, or be angry or curse others; don’t swear-let your yes be yes – your no be no; don’t refuse the borrower; do your works of charity, quietly, not to be seen).

Describe some of the parables that tell about Jesus’ teaching about the Kingdom or Reign of God, e.g., the Last Judgment, the Pearl of Great Price, the Parable of the Talents.

Explain that the focus of Jesus’ message was about bringing about the Kingdom or Reign of God.

Give examples of how the Holy Spirit’s coming on Pentecost affected the growth of the early Church.

Explain how God is active in his/her life and in the world.

Express that Jesus was human like us and taught us how to live.

Relate that Jesus Christ is the fullness of God’s revelation.

Describe the Church as a community of believers in Jesus who pray, worship together and who give service to the world.

Identify themselves as disciples who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Explain how the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds form us as a community of faith.

Know that the final destiny of Christians is eternal life with God in Heaven, while working for a better world here on earth.

Give examples of how the Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

Explain various sacred spaces and sacred objects in Church, e.g., the Reconciliation Room, the ambry for the Sacred Oils, and the Stations of the Cross.

Describe the difference between the Lectionary, the Book of the Gospels, and the Sacramentary used at Mass.

Explain the functions of the various liturgical ministries, e.g., presider, lector, server, cantor, reader, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, choir, greeter, usher.

Explain the various kinds of public liturgy in the Church.

Explain the various liturgical seasons of the year recognizing the main feasts within each.

Chart/organize the meaning of the various colors and rituals in each liturgical season.

Explain the importance of Sunday in the liturgical year.

Identify the mysteries celebrated on the Holy Days of Obligation.

List and explain the major feasts of Mary, e.g., Immaculate Conception, Mary, Mother of God, the Assumption, the Annunciation.

Explain the ways Jesus Christ is present at Mass.

Chart the rites of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Explain the connection between the event of the Last Supper and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Explain how the Mass is a meal, a sacrifice, and a prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God the Father.

Examine how sacraments are signs of God’s working in peoples’ lives.

Discuss ways celebrations of the sacraments are community worship.

Describe how the sacraments carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ through the Church.

Explain that the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation reconciles one to God, community and self.

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Grade Five (continued)...

Explain that each person is created with a soul which will live with God forever.

Illustrate and list the gifts and talents in his/her life that have been given to them by God to share with others.

Explain that we show our love for God by respecting others and by caring for and sharing with others.

Discuss how to resolve conflicts with family members, friends and classmates.

Illustrate how they can be kind to persons who are sick, suffering or disabled.

Explain their own experiences about the positive and negative influence groups can have on building relationships.

Demonstrate how stereotyping exploits individuals and impacts relationships.

Differentiate between wants and needs.

Explain how we can forgive persons who hurt us.

Illustrate ways we can live out our discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Describe the role of missionaries in witnessing to serving Christ by serving others.

Demonstrate how their role models live out Christian values.

Examine and apply the ways to live out the virtues of faith, hope and love.

Explain the role of grace in the formation of their conscience.

Illustrate ways in which people suffer from discrimination and inequality.

Illustrate performing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

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Grade Six

Explain how Sacred Scripture reveals the presence of God in history.

Give examples of revelation as an ongoing personal invitation from God throughout history requiring a personal, life-long response.

Demonstrate the use of locating books, chapters and verses in the Bible.

Identify most of the books of the Old Testament.

Discuss how the Two Great Commandments are a summary of the law and the prophets.

Illustrate the concept of covenant.

Explain how the Ten Commandments are a response to our covenant relationship with God and our neighbor.

Explain that the Ten Commandments are a fulfillment of the covenant begun with Abraham.

Explain that the Old Testament is the story of God's relationship with the Israelites and that its message is relevant today.

Describe the ways God is revealed through people, the Church and the sacraments.

Explain how each person shares in the responsibility for the mission of the Church.

Recognize the numerous roles within the Church for the ordained and lay ministers.

Describe that each person is called by God to a particular vocation to live the Christian life.

Explain that the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds are ways of forming our Church community.

Practice prayers to Mary and the saints, e.g., the Rosary, the Memorare, the Angelus, the Prayer of St. Francis, the Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Explain the Apostles' Creed.

Demonstrate how various examples of sacred art and liturgical music inspire us to pray.

Describe the mysteries celebrated in the holy Days of Obligation.

Chart the various rituals on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Explain the Easter Triduum as the central celebration within the liturgical year.

Make a connection between the Mass as a prayer of thanksgiving and praise with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ.

Explain that the scriptural readings in the Lectionary follow a three-year cycle for Sunday Masses and a two-year cycle for daily Masses.

Explain the meaning of the sacraments that they have celebrated, e.g., Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist.

Demonstrate ways to resolve conflicts in various situations in their lives, i.e., home, school, neighborhood.

Illustrate the effects groups can have on building relationships.

Compare and contrast positive and negative peer relationships.

Give examples of how their peers influence their behavior.

Discuss how one's harmful actions, e.g., gossip, lying, stealing, cheating, jealousy or bullying hurts forming relationships with others.

Discuss the friendships/relationships that Jesus had with others in his life, especially the poor and the marginalized.

Discuss the ways they can respond to the elderly, people with disabilities, the poor and the sick in their lives.

Demonstrate their responsibility to forgive others and seek forgiveness.

Discuss how they can work for the missions.

Explain that the knowledge and study of one's faith is a prerequisite to the intentional practice of their faith.

Explain how Gospel teachings of love of neighbor are carried out in daily living.

Discuss the role of grace and the sources one has in forming a right or informed conscience.

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Grade Six (cont'd)

Explain what sin is and the various kinds of sin, i.e., mortal, venial, personal, social.

Explain some of the different sins against each of the Ten Commandments.

Explore how one has options when faced with personal decisions.

Explain a process of examining one's conscience.

Discuss situations in which one's rights and those of others have been denied.

Compare and contrast attitudes and behaviors that promote peace.

Demonstrate ways they can live the Theological Virtues.

Illustrate how they can practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Explain why service is an obligation of baptized Christians.

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Grade Seven

Explain Revelation as God's self-communication to all people which calls forth a response in faith.

Explain that the source of God's revelation is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

Name the books of Sacred Scripture found in the Catholic Canon that are not found in the Hebrew (Protestant) Canon.

Locate books, chapters and verses in the Old and New Testaments.

Recognize which books of the Bible are in the Old and New Testaments.

Differentiate between the literary forms in the Old and New Testaments.

Demonstrate understanding of some of the books in the different parts of the Bible, e.g., the Pentateuch, historic books, prophetic books, wisdom literature, the Gospels, the Epistles/Letters, and the Book of Revelation.

Discuss the four Gospels, the community being addressed and the purpose of each.

Describe the relationship between covenant and testament.

Place on a timeline key events in the New Testament, e.g., birth of Jesus, public ministry/death and resurrection, writing of Paul's letters, death of Peter and Paul, writing of the Gospels.

Explain the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.

Demonstrate that the covenant with the Jews is still valid.

Define the new covenant as the relationship between God and god's people as expressed in Jesus.

Apply the relationship between the New Testament titles of Jesus with Old Testament titles, e.g., Lord, Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah (Christ), Suffering Servant.

Discuss the relationship between miracles and faith.

Illustrate how Jesus taught about the Kingdom or Reign of God through parables.

Describe some of the parable and miracles stories of Jesus as related to his identity and mission, e.g.,

Parable of the Wedding Feast, the Weeds among the Wheat, the Mustard Seed, Healing of the Paralytic.

Describe the Jewish roots of Jesus, the Apostles and some of the early Christians.

Explain how the Gospels tell about key events in Jesus' life, his teachings and ministry and his suffering, death and resurrection/ascension.

Explain that the Gospels are called Good News because of Jesus' Resurrection.

Locate Jesus in human history.

Explore the four portraits of Jesus presented by the Gospel writers.

Explain that the central message of Jesus was the Kingdom of God and how his listeners could work toward its arrival.

Diagram the lands of the New Testament on a map.

Give examples of how God is revealed in the world through creation, people, Sacred Scripture, the Church and the sacraments.

Explain that Jesus Christ is the fullness of God's revelation of God and the fulfillment of God's promises.

Define the mystery of the Incarnation as it reveals our relationship to Jesus our friend and brother.

Describe the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection as the central salvific event in Christianity.

Describe the Resurrection as the central event in Christianity.

Describe the Church as the Body of Christ which continues Christ's mission through word, worship, community and service to the world.

Describe the Church as the People of God who continue Christ's action in the world.

Define the roles of the Pope, cardinals, bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, and lay ministers in the service of the Church and the world.

Discuss some of the ways they share in the mission of the Church.

Explain ways all Christians can work together in service of the world.

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Grade Seven (cont'd)

Express their role in the Communion of Saints.

Explain that prayer and the sacraments are sources of strength, encouragement, and peace in relationships and integral to being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Explain the feasts of Pentecost, the Ascension and feasts of Mary.

Explain why Easter is the most important feast of the year.

Chart and explain key feasts of the liturgical year, along with Holy Days of Obligation and the Easter Triduum.

Explain the significance of the Book of the Gospels being carried in procession at the beginning of Mass.

Illustrate how the sacraments carry on the ministry of Jesus in the world.

Define the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church and the effects of each.

Explain the signs, symbols, rites and rituals of the seven sacraments.

Interpret how the sacraments are special signs and actions of God's love and care in people's lives.

Explain that the celebration of sacraments is community worship and an example of the public prayer of the Church.

Demonstrate the meaning and purpose of sacraments.

Identify that the belief in the dignity of each person is a core social teaching of the Catholic Church.

Explain that each person is created with an immortal soul.

Explain how our love of God is shown in our caring for others.

Examine the influence their peers have on them.

Explore their need for the friendship of others and the ways they can be a friend.

Demonstrate how they work cooperatively with others.

Illustrate basic needs of all people, e.g., physical, intellectual, spiritual, and emotional.

Explain how the gift of their sexuality can be used positively in forming friendships.

Illustrate why the Catholic Church teaches that all life is sacred from conception to natural death.

Explain why Catholics must respect all persons.

Explain that the moral teachings of the Catholic Church have a role in the formation of conscience.

Describe the moral or cardinal virtues and cite examples of them in daily life.

Discuss ways they are living the Beatitudes.

Relate the spiritual and corporal works of mercy with the Gospel, e.g., Matt. 25.

Explain the relationship between justice and peace.

Give examples from the Gospels of how Jesus dealt with injustices.

Participate in initiating, planning and carrying out various kinds of service.

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Grade Eight

Explain how God speaks through persons and events in Sacred Scripture, e.g., the Apostles, Paul, Timothy, the Resurrection, and the Destruction of Jerusalem.

Explain how passages in Sacred Scripture relate to one's life and one's relationship with God, e.g., the Resurrection stories, the dependence on God in Luke 12, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus lost in the Temple.

Explain what is meant by saying that the Sacred Scripture is inspired by God.

Explain the difference between a Catholic and Protestant Bible.

Discuss some of the main messages of Sacred Scripture.

Use references available for understanding words and passages in the Bible.

Illustrate the difference in approaching the Bible from a fundamentalist and contextualist position.

Explain why the church alone has the authority to interpret Sacred Scripture authentically.

Discuss the role of inspiration through the Holy Spirit in the development of each stage in the formation of Sacred Scripture.

Explain how the Old and New Testament developed, i.e., event, story and writing.

List some of the kinds of writings found in different books of the Bible, e.g., the Pentateuch, the historical books, the prophetic books, wisdom literature, the Psalms, the Gospels, the Epistles, apocalyptic writings.

Describe how the Old Testament helps us understand the New Testament.

Describe covenant as it is used in the Bible.

Explain what the Kingdom or Reign of God meant in Jesus' teachings.

Describe how the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost affected the growth of the early Church.

Compare ministries of men and women disciples in the early Church with ministries in the Church today.

Explain why Jesus Christ is the fullness of God's revelation.

Explain how the mystery of the Incarnation reveals our relationship to Jesus Christ.

Discuss belief in the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ and the impact it has on one's life.

Discuss what salvation in Jesus Christ means in practical terms.

Describe grace as having a friendship with God and having God's life and love.

Illustrate the different kinds of grace: sanctifying grace and actual grace.

Illustrate how living the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit aids discipleship.

Discuss the roles in the church for ordained and lay ministers.

Describe how Christians are called to work for Christian unity.

Explain that the final destiny of all people is eternal life with God in Heaven, while working for a better world here on earth.

Give examples of how the church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

Discuss the role of Mary as our mother and Mother of the Church.

Illustrate the role of the Magisterium as a servant of Sacred Scripture and custodian of Sacred Tradition.

Describe the concepts of heaven, hell, purgatory and judgment.

Describe the consequences of one's unrepented rejection of God's love.

Practice prayers to Mary, e.g., the Rosary, the Memorare, the Angelus, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and prayers to various saints on their feast days.

Demonstrate familiarity with various forms of prayer: formal, spontaneous, meditative, contemplative, Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration.

Explain how liturgical music enhances liturgical prayer.

Explain the history of the Mass and how the different parts of the Mass developed.

Examine in detail the Sacrament of confirmation in preparation for its reception and its significance in their life.

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Grade Eight (continued)...

Express the importance of every person because they are created in God's image as a son or daughter of God.

Explain why one's gifts given by the Holy Spirit are to be shared with others for the building up of the Christian community, i.e., the Body of Christ.

Explain that one grows in the love of God by growing in relationships to others, self and all creation.

Identify and demonstrate skills important in the building of relationships.

Illustrate how Christian values and virtues are foundational in forming, building and maintaining relationships.

Describe the difference between sex and sexuality.

Explain the Church's teaching on pre-marital sex.

Illustrate the value of ethnic and racial diversities in society and in the Church.

Give examples of how learning and practicing one's faith are integral to living out the Christian faith.

Chart the reasons for and the needs that were met by their service projects.

Illustrate ways they reconcile with others.

Discuss how his/her behavior bears witness to the Catholic faith.

Illustrate sins of omission.

Describe a process they use in making moral decisions.

Discuss the doctrine of original sin and its implications in everyday life.

Discuss how the teachings of Jesus and the Church challenge social sin.

Illustrate how one's choices have consequences for oneself and others.

Describe the relationship between freedom and responsibility.

Illustrate how they promote peace and justice in their live and connect this with the Beatitudes.

Illustrate and evaluate how they show God's love in the way they treat the created world.

Assess how they are just to others at home, school and in the parish.

Relate how Jesus handled injustices in his time.

Compare and contrast examples from the Gospels and their own life how the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are lived.

Assess one's experience of giving service and relate it to the Gospel message.

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Sacred Scripture – High School

Explain that God has revealed Godself throughout history with a plan for creation and salvation which requires a personal, life-long response.

Demonstrate how Sacred Scripture reveals the presence of God throughout history.

Relate revelation to everyday life.

Explain how Sacred Scripture is inspired by God, written by human authors and inspired at every stage of development.

Differentiate between the Catholic (Greek) and Protestant (Hebrew) canons of the Old Testament.

Compare and contrast the different translations of the Bible and note the differences, e.g., New Revised Standard Edition, New Jerusalem, New American, New International Version.

Recognize and illustrate religious truth within historical contexts, e.g., scientific, moral, religious and symbolic.

Employ reference material in studying Sacred Scripture, e.g., Bible dictionary, *The Collegeville Commentary*, *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*.

Construct a timeline of key events in the Old and New Testaments.

Examine significant men and women in the Old and New Testaments and their contribution to salvation history, e.g., Noah, Abraham, Sara, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Gideon, Samson, Deborah, Saul, David, Solomon, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, Cyrus, John the Baptist, Jesus, the Apostles, Mary Magdalene, Paul, Priscilla.

Explain how the Old Testament is relevant today and that God's covenant with the Jews is also still relevant.

Explain why the Exodus, a journey from slavery to freedom, is the central event of Jewish history.

Describe the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, e.g., in regard to salvation history and the covenant.

Demonstrate Jesus Christ as the fullness of God's self-revelation begun in the Old Testament.

Examine how the basis for the Church's social teaching and ministry is grounded in Sacred Scripture.

Demonstrate how Sacred Scripture challenges and guides them in daily life.

Differentiate the four portraits of Jesus presented by the gospel writers.

Examine the teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount and their significance today.

Compare and contrast the parables and miracle stories of the four Gospels and how they relate to Jesus' mission.

Justify why the Gospels are called the "Good News" of Jesus Christ.

Compare images of God and Israel in the Old Testament and Jesus Christ and the Church in the New Testament, e.g., holy nation, people of God, spouse, bride of Christ, Body of Christ.

Examine the growth and development of the Church as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

Research the meaning and purpose of the Book of Revelation.

Describe the Epistles as letters to the various early Christian communities.

Summarize the tensions of the early Church with Jewish leaders and with Hellenistic culture, and how they unfolded.

Examine scripture passages that mark turning points in the early Church's development, e.g., Pentecost, the Conversion of Paul, the appointment of deacons, the martyrdom of Stephen, the Council of Jerusalem.

Demonstrate how the reality of the Incarnation is lived out in one's life.

Examine the full humanity and divinity of Jesus as expressed in the Nicene Creed.

Explain grace as relationship with God which gives one strength and power to live a Christian life.

Compare and contrast the relationships and functions of each person of the Trinity.

Examine how the Church continues the mission and ministry of Jesus.

Review the different roles within the Church for the ordained, consecrated religious and lay persons.

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Sacred Scripture – High School (continued)...

Investigate how each baptized person shares in the responsibility of the evangelizing mission of the Church, e.g., to proclaim the Word, to celebrate and worship, to build community and to serve humanity.

Examine the implications of understanding the Church as the Body of Christ.

Identify significant men and women throughout church history.

Examine the purposes of Vatican II, some of its key documents, the changes that occurred and the implications for the Church today, *“The dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation”*, *“The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church”*, *“The Constitution on Sacred Liturgy”*, *“The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World”*, *“The Decree on Ecumenism”*, and *“The Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions”*.

Illustrate the impact of Church Synods and Councils on Catholic life.

Research the ways in which the Catholic Church is universal and multicultural in its scope.

Examine faith traditions of other Christians and other world religions with the Catholic tradition to better appreciate others’ faith traditions as well as their own.

Appraise various examples of ecumenical and interfaith efforts in regard to working for peace, combating local and world problems, meeting for prayer celebrations and dialogue.

Examine key phrases in the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds.

Discuss Mary as model of discipleship, and her role as Mother of God (Theotokos), for the Church.

Explain the role of the Magisterium as the authoritative interpreter of revelation.

Examine the concept of the hierarchy of truths and the implication on Church teaching.

Examine various recent encyclicals and pastorals, e.g., *“On the Eucharist”*, *“On the Most Holy Rosary”*, *“The Splendor of Truth”*, and *“God Is Love”*.

Examine the relationship between dogma and doctrine; religion and faith; and spirituality and belief.

Discuss the development of doctrine and dogma and its constancy.

GRADED COURSE OF STUDY – BENCHMARKS

As adopted by the Diocese of Columbus – Department of Religious Education March, 2007

Prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments – High School

Demonstrate various expressions of prayer in the Catholic tradition: vocal, meditative and contemplative. Illustrate various examples of personal and communal prayer, including but not limited to spontaneous prayer, litanies, the Rosary, Lectio Divina, and traditional devotions.

Examine prayer as a helpful source of strength, encouragement and peace in all of life.

Relate how living the paschal mystery is a means of ongoing, deepening conversion in the life of Christian discipleship.

Explain the major periods of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in light of the ongoing process of lifelong conversion.

Examine the history of the catechumenate and explain its impact on contemporary parish renewal.

Plan and participate in various examples of liturgical prayer, e.g., Liturgy of the Hours, Liturgy of the Word, sacraments, ritual blessings, etc.

Explain the various meanings of the Mass: a meal, a memorial of Jesus' sacrifice, a prayer of worship and thanksgiving to God.

Discuss ways to make the Mass more central to parish life.

Discuss the implications of the various ways Jesus Christ is present in the Mass.

Explain the relationship between the Jewish Sabbath and the Christian Sunday as well as the links between the Passover, the Last Supper and Mass.

Discuss the implications of the symbols, gestures and prayers of each of the seven sacraments.

Chart the matter and form, the effects and the minister of each sacrament.

Explain the meaning of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance/Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony and Holy Orders in light of Christian discipleship.

Discuss the implication of the sacramentality of daily life.

GRADED COURSE OF STUDY – BENCHMARKS

As adopted by the Diocese of Columbus – Department of Religious Education March, 2007

Development of the Christian person, Relationship, Moral Decision-Making and Service – High School

Illustrate how the care and respect of one's body and those of others is a response to God's love for us.

Compare and contrast the positive and negative influences culture can have on building relationships.

Measure how stereotyping individuals impacts personal and social relationships.

Create an inventory of Christian values and virtues that are foundational in forming, building and maintaining covenantal relationships.

Evaluate the influences (sinful and other ways) that might hinder the development of relationships based on Christian ideals.

Develop conflict management skills necessary for peaceful living.

Examine appropriate ways of expressing love and intimacy both physical and emotional in light of Gospel values.

Value the importance of chastity in all relationships.

Examine the Church's teaching on homosexuality and the pastoral approach to homosexuals.

Estimate the degree of exploitation of sex and sexuality by the media and explain the myth of safe sex.

Demonstrate how decisions about contraception, teenage pregnancy, and abortion have a desensitizing impact on the values and morals of society.

Value all life as a gift from God that needs care and respect.

Examine what it means to live a moral and just life in response to our Baptismal call.

Illustrate how the choice of a vocation reflects a person's response to God's call.

Demonstrate the living out of the theological and moral virtues.

Apply the Catholic Church's teaching on key moral issues as expressed by the Magisterium.

Examine the biblical foundations of moral and social justice teachings and their implications for daily life.

Explain each of the seven principles of social justice.

Examine how Catholic social justice teaching develops the Kingdom of God.

Compare and contrast the distinctions and connections among charity, justice and peace.

Assess elements and values in various cultures, and including the American culture, that promote or hinder efforts of justice and peace.

Demonstrate how service is an essential part of the Gospel message and our baptismal call.

Examine how local and global models of service are based on Jesus teachings.