

BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH
2020-2021 Children's Faith Formation
(Modified due to COVID)

The following is the basic knowledge of the Catholic teachings that your son/daughter must know prior to being eligible to enroll in the next grade level in 2021-2022. They should also know the prayers contained on the PRAYERS BY GRADE reference sheet.

PRE-K/Kindergarten

- God is the loving creator of all things.
- God created each of us and loves each of us the way we are.
- God shows us His love for us through our parents, brothers, and sisters, friends, priests and teachers.
- God calls us grow closer to Him and to love Him more and more each day. God calls us to pray (talk) to Him each day.
- Jesus teaches us how to love God and others.
- Jesus is God's Son and reveals God's love to us.
- Mary is the mother of Jesus and Mary is our mother.
- Joseph is the foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary.
- Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the Holy Family.
- We become members of God's family through the Sacrament of Baptism.
- God wants His family, the Church, to gather each Sunday at Mass.
- In Mass, we remember that Jesus gave His life for our happiness.
- There are right and wrong choices that we make. It is important to say "I'm sorry" when we hurt someone.
- Sin breaks our relationship with God and others.
- Prayer is listening and talking with God.

1st GRADE

- God is a loving Father.
- There are three persons in the Blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- God is the loving Creator of all things which are very good. He loves all people and is our friend.
- Jesus is the Son of God, our brother, teacher and redeemer. He was sent by God, the Father, to save us and show us how the Father wants us to live.
- The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to give us gifts of peace, strength, and joy.
- We belong to the Roman Catholic Church and are called Christians. The Church also includes those who have gone before us, the Saints in heaven.
- Mary is the mother of Jesus and Joseph is His foster (earthly) father.
- Through Baptism, we are made sons and daughters of God and become part of God's family.
- The Eucharist is both a special meal that Jesus shares with us and a sacrifice of His love for us. It is also a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to the Father.
- During the Eucharist (Mass), we remember what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper before He suffered and died for us on the cross.
- During the Mass, Jesus is with us in the Eucharist.
- God always forgives us if we ask and are sorry.
- The Sacrament of Penance is a special way God shows His love and forgiveness.
- God's family includes people of every race, age, culture and ability, having dignity from conception to death.

2nd GRADE

- The Most Holy Trinity consists of the Almighty Father, His only Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
- The Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments.
- Satan was created by God as an angel, and had a distinct role in the fall of man.
- Original sin affects all of mankind.
- Jesus is the Son of God, who became man.
- Jesus, Savior of the world, died on the cross to save ALL people.
- When Jesus ascended to His Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always.
- Jesus is still present today in the Word and in the Church, most especially in the Eucharist.
- Goodness and evil exist in the world.

- God made us in His image and likeness.
- The 7 Sacraments – Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Marriage – were given to us by Jesus and are the means by which Jesus gives us His life.
- Jesus gives us special gifts of His presence: a sharing in God’s life through Baptism, His forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and His Body and Blood in the Eucharist.
- Through Baptism we become members of God’s family, the Roman Catholic Church.
- In the Sacrament of Penance, we express sorrow for our sins and we are forgiven.
- If we are sorry, and we seek God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance, God will always forgive us when we sin.
- The essential elements of the Sacrament of Penance are:
 - Examination of Conscience
 - Confession
 - Act of Contrition
 - Purpose of Amendment
 - Penance and absolution
- Jesus gave the priest the power to forgive sins in the Sacrament of Penance.
- Jesus gives us himself in the Eucharist at the Last Supper
- In the Sacrament of the Eucharist, Jesus continues to give himself in the bread and wine that become His body and blood.
- The parts of the Mass are: listening to God’s Word, offering ourselves with Jesus to the Father, and receiving Jesus in Communion.
- Through the Body and Blood of Christ all people become one.
- In the Mass at communion we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit helps us make good decisions.
- The conscience is God’s voice in people’s hearts helping them to what God wants them to do, what is good.
- Sin is deciding to do what one knows is wrong and breaks a person’s relationship with God, what is bad.
- Jesus’ obedience to the Father is a sign and model for the life of a Christian, for how we should live.
- People receive Jesus at Communion so that we can become more like Jesus.
- Everyone person is called to be a Saint and Jesus is always ready to help us live more like him.
- God gives us the gift of free will to be able to choose either “good” or “bad”.
- The Eucharistic Liturgy (the Mass) is the most important prayer of the Catholic Church.
- The Ten Commandments are good guides for an examination of conscience
- Reconciliation (Sacrament of Penance) frees us from sin and gives us grace, God’s own life.
- The Sacrament of Penance is a sacrament of healing and a sign of God’s mercy and love.
- Regular confession is a way to grow in faith.
- Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.
- Jesus gives himself to us as food at every Mass.
- At Mass, Jesus is present in the Word of God, the Eucharist, the person of ministry and the assembly.
- Learn the Parts of the Mass
- Participate regularly with all other Catholics in Sunday Mass and holy days of obligation.

3rd GRADE

- Jesus called us into the Church.
- Jesus chose 12 Apostles and place Peter at their head.
- The Holy Spirit gathered the people of God at Pentecost.
- The Church is the family of God, with Christ at the head. He is still here in His Word, in His Eucharist and in His Church.
- Bishops are successors to the Apostles and they lead the Church.
- The Pope is the successor to Peter, and he is the head of the Church on earth.
- The Church (especially the bishops) guards the teaching of Christ.
- The Church is one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic.
- The Apostles’ Creed expresses the teachings of the Church.
- The saints are people in God’s heavenly family.
- Sacramentals prepare us to receive the sacraments. We are to be familiar with sacramental objects and the use: churches, altars, sacred vessels, vestments, oil, candles, relics, rosaries, holy water, statues, etc.
- The Eucharist is Jesus sharing Himself with us.

- What Jesus said and did at the Last Supper before He suffered and died for us on the cross is made present during the Mass.
- During the Mass, Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.
- When we receive the Eucharist at Mass, we are receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- God made the world to be good.
- God's family includes people of every race, age, culture, and ability, all having dignity from conception to natural death.
- God gives us the gift of free will to be able to choose either "good" or "bad".
- Know that where two or more are gathered in prayer, God is present.
- Recognize the rosary as a prayer through Mary, our mother.
- Participate regularly with all other Catholics in Sunday Mass (or the vigil of Sunday Mass on Saturday evening) and holy days of obligation.
- Understand the priest as a person chosen by God to represent Christ in the Church and to God's disciples. The priest leads us in prayer at Mass.
- Participate in activities for Lent and Advent to appreciate the significance of these liturgical seasons, ex: the Advent wreath, Stations of the Cross, etc.
- Begin to use your gifts to serve the Church.
- Become aware that Baptism makes us part of the larger family of God, the Church.
- Know the names of the leaders of the Church (pope, bishop, pastor, etc.)

4th Grade

- Jesus made holiness possible through His life, death, and Resurrection
- The Church is God's presence in the world.
- There are 5 precepts of the Church, guiding our practice of attending Mass on Sundays and on holy days, Confession, reception of the Eucharist, fasting and abstinence, and the support of the Church.
- The Church was born at Pentecost by the working of the Holy Spirit in the Apostles.
- Peter was the first head of the Church.
- Paul was a great Apostle, living a life of conversion and mission.
- Mary was a model disciple, living a life of faith and obedience.
- We are created in the image and likeness of God with special gifts that will help us in our life's vocation.
- Baptism brings us into the family of God and cleanses us of original sin.
- Holy Communion strengthens our relationship with God and with each other.
- Confirmation increases and deepens our Baptismal grace, strengthens the baptism conferral of the Holy Spirit and the bonds with Church, associates the participant more closely with the Church's mission, increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit and helps to bear witness to the Christian faith in words and deeds.
- The Sacrament of Matrimony places a man and a woman in union with one another founded in an equal personal dignity which is then expressed in an unreserved mutuality of self-giving.
- Holy Orders placed a man at the service of the Church.
- In the Sacrament of Penance, we express sorrow for and repentance for our sins and experience God's forgiveness.
- Anointing of the Sick brings healing to the sick among us and rest to their souls.
- The Mass is the most important work of the Church – it is where we get our strength and nourishment from the Body and Blood of Christ and our mission to serve.
- Personal conversion of heart is the beginning of holiness.
- We are to follow the greatest commandment: love God and neighbor.
- The Ten Commandments, a covenant (promise), guides our actions.
- We are to learn and be able to recite the Ten Commandments in order.
- The Beatitudes are guides to help us live in holiness.
- Personal sin exists as a result of original sin and our choice not to follow God's law.

5th & 6th Grades

- At death, each individual will be personally accountable before God for the choices one has made during one's life.
- At the end of time, when Christ returns, all humanity will be accountable for their participation in building the Kingdom of God.
- Heaven means living in complete union with God forever.

- Hell means being separated from God forever.
- Purgatory means the continuing journey after death of moving towards complete union with God forever. It's the journey where we purify ourselves of the sins that we had not confessed prior to dying.
- Jesus, the Sacrament of God, is the visible sign of God's love for all people.
- The Liturgy is the public worship of God by His Church.
- The sacraments, through both word and symbol, bring God into our lives and bring us into God's life.
- Grace is God's life in us.
- Our response to our baptismal call is the vocation we freely choose to the vowed religious, priestly or single or married life.
- The Scriptures are the inspired Word of God.
- Written Scripture developed from an oral tradition of the lived experience of God's presence.
- Through the unfolding of the Old Testament, we come to know Jesus as one prefigured and foretold; we understand Him as a member of the Jewish community.
- The major themes that are present throughout the Scriptures are Revelation, Covenant, Redemption, Salvation and Sanctification.
- The stories of Creation and the Fall help us to understand who we are and what God wants for us.
- Stories of Abraham, Moses and other ancestors of faith give us examples of how to respond to God in faith.
- The Exodus event is the Israelites' journey from slavery to freedom.
- The Scriptures contain stories of how God reveals Himself through the lives of men and women.
- The Scriptures help us understand why God created us and how we are to live.
- King Saul, David, and Solomon help us to understand why the people of Jesus' time were waiting for the "Anointed One".
- God sent prophets such as Jeremiah, Ezekiel and others to call people back to a faithful way of living.
- Christians understand Jesus as Messiah; He is true God and true man.
- The New Testament continues to unfold Salvation History through the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus.
- The mission of Jesus is kept alive in the Catholic Church by the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Old and New Testaments are the source of our Eucharistic and sacramental liturgies as well as our personal prayer and meditation.
- The Eucharist is central to understanding the Passover, covenant, Last Supper, crucifixion, and Resurrection.

7th & 8th Grades

- The Church's creeds are expressions of faith with their foundation in the belief of the early Church, developed in the early centuries in response to new doctrinal questions.
- There are 3 persons in the Blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- God, the Father, is the loving creator of all things and keeps them in existence.
- All of creation is the result of God's unconditional love.
- Jesus is the Son of God, our brother, teacher, and redeemer. He was sent by God, the Father to save us and to show us how the Father wants us to live.
- Jesus Christ possesses two natures, one divine and the other human, not confused but united in one Person of God's Son.
- Jesus' ministry had 3 aspects: priest (celebrating), prophet (proclaiming) and king (service).
- Jesus died and rose from the dead. Through his death and resurrection, he conquered sin and death and redeemed the world.
- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity who was sent by the Father and the Son to live within us and unite us.
- The Spirit strengthens our relationship with Jesus and empowers us to continue His mission through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- The Spirit empowers us to proclaim Jesus, the person and message to all people.
- The Holy Spirit enlightens our choices so that we come to recognize the will of God in our lives.
- The 4 Marks of the Church are: one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic.
- Baptism is immersion into the life of Christ.
- In the Eucharist, we receive the real presence of Christ.
- The reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.
- In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the confirmed are given "a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross."
- Our ability to choose good is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

- The Beatitudes are a guide to the value of God's Kingdom.
- Through Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, a person comes to the aid of their neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.
- The moral and natural laws find their permanent expressions in the Ten Commandments.
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Know that through Baptism, the Church is a family of faith called to holiness, to offer support, guidance and care for all.
- Know that Godparents and Sponsors represent the Christian community and are models of faith.
- Learn and know about traditional Catholic saints whose lives were dedicated to service.
- Perform good acts and give our best to others.
- Value Jesus as a model for the way we should live.
- Care for and share one's time, talent, money and possessions in good stewardship.
- Serve the needs of others by detaching oneself from material desires.
- Explore ways we can show that we care for all God's creation.