

# REFORMATTED RELIGION CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

## GRADES Fifth-Eighth

### Religion Curriculum Guidelines Grade Five:

#### Section I - We Believe

Essential Question: How do the traditions, rituals, and history of the church impact individuals and today's society?

#### **Expectation #1**

1.0 - Scripture has great meaning for life today.

- 1.1 - Understand that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that it has two parts: Hebrew (Old) and Christian (New) scriptures.
- 1.2 - Compare the different accounts of the gospel as written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

#### **Expectation #2**

2.0 - The early history of the Church has a profound impact on the current church today.

- 2.1 - Articulate the impact of the teachings of Jesus on the formation of the early Church.
- 2.2 - Explain how Catholic Christians have distinctive objects, prayers, gestures, and beliefs different from other religions that come from the history and traditions of the Church.
- 2.3 - Articulate an appreciation of Mary as the Mother of the Church.
- 2.4 - Illustrate how the saints are Christian heroes and role models.

#### **Expectation #3**

3.0 - The doctrine and dogma of the church are found in the Creedal statements.

- 3.1 - Identify how God created all things.
- 3.2 - Recognize that Jesus took flesh and became human, like us, in all things but sin and this is called the Incarnation.
- 3.3 - Explain why Jesus is called the Messiah and Savior.
- 3.4 - Use rich, vivid and descriptive language to express an understanding of the Communion of Saints, the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, and life everlasting.

#### **Expectation #4**

4.0 - The Trinity is revealed to all people in the person, word, and works of Jesus.

- 4.1 - Articulate how God created all things and made each person in the image and likeness of God.

- 4.2 - Justify how Jesus, God the Son, became human in all things but sin.
- 4.3 - Express through the written word how the Holy Spirit lives within each person who is baptized.

### **We Worship**

#### **Expectation #5**

5.0 - Sacraments are important moments in the life of the community especially the centrality of the Eucharist.

- 5.1 - Explain how sacraments are actions of the Church that mediate God's grace.
- 5.2 - Identify the factors that make Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist the Sacraments of Initiation.
- 5.3 - Explain why the Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick) strengthen all members of the Church.
- 5.4 - Illustrate how the Sacraments of Service (Holy Orders and Matrimony) are covenants made with the Church and each other.

#### **Expectation #6**

6.0 - The Eucharistic Liturgy (the Mass) is the communal celebration of the Paschal Mystery in which each is called to full and active participation.

- 6.1 - Explain the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine offered at the Eucharistic Liturgy.
- 6.2 - Identify why the Eucharistic Liturgy is the central prayer of the Catholic community.
- 6.3 - Illustrate how the Eucharistic celebration is divided into two main parts, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, as well as two smaller rites, the Introductory Rite and the Concluding Rite.
- 6.4 - Justify the importance of song, silence, response, gesture and movement in the Eucharistic Liturgy.
- 6.5 - Describe how Christ is present in the person of the minister, in the Eucharistic elements, in the Word and in the gathered assembly.
- 6.6 - Explain why the primary liturgical symbols are the altar, the ambo, the assembly, the presider's chair, and the baptismal font.

### **We Pray**

#### **Expectation #7**

7.0 - Catholic prayer and traditions are an important aspect of the life of the church.

- 7.1 - Demonstrate an appreciation for the Word of God by attentive listening and responding to it in life.

- 7.2 - Participate in all forms of prayer: formal, informal, spontaneous, reflective, personal, mantra, music and movement, guided meditation and communal.
- 7.3 - Evaluate the aspects of community prayer, by praying in a group, attending prayer services or liturgies and visiting the church.
- 7.5 - Compose prayers such as blessings, psalms, petitions and contemporary reflections on the Mysteries of the Rosary.
- 7.6 - Learn the responses of the liturgy as prayer.
- 7.7 - Explain how the Mass is the highest form of worship and prayer.
- 7.8 - Recite the traditional prayers of the Church:
  - Sign of the Cross
  - Our Father
  - Hail Mary
  - Grace Before and After Meals
  - Doxology (Glory to the Father...)
  - Act of Contrition
  - Apostles' Creed
  - Nicene Creed
- 7.9 - Explain the importance of the traditional prayers of the Church:
  - The Rosary
  - Prayer of St. Francis
  - Acts of Faith, Hope and Love
  - Prayer of the Holy Spirit
  - Stations of the Cross

## **Section II - We Live**

How do the teachings of social justice and morality, and the act of serving others affect the quality of life for individuals and the community?

### **Expectation #1**

1.0 - Moral teachings, give individuals the ability to make good moral decisions and to act in a responsible, Christian manner.

- 1.1 - Explain how the Holy Spirit enables each person to grow and act in a Christian manner.
- 1.2 - Illustrate how one's conscience is the ability that each person has to know what is right and wrong.
- 1.3 - Compare and contrast how the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and God's Law of Love are guidelines in the formation of conscience.
- 1.4 - Examine and compare life choices in the light of Gospel values.

### **Expectation #2**

2.0 - The seven key principles of the Catholic social teachings can be applied to personal and societal situations.

- 2.1 - Justify why each person should be treated fairly and respectfully because they are made in the image and likeness of God.

- 2.2 - Explain the need to defend the dignity of others and show respect for all people as children of God.
- 2.3 - Explain why the family is the basic unit of society and why it is the responsibility of each person to be involved in the community as one's larger family.
- 2.4 - Describe one's basic human rights and responsibilities and justify why it is the responsibility of each person to respect other's rights.
- 2.5 - Explain why each person needs to contribute from personal resources in order to ensure that all have the basic requirements for life with dignity.
- 2.6 - Identify why one's need to distinguish between "I want" and "I need".
- 2.7 - Discuss the work and workers who contribute to society and how it is their work to be a student.
- 2.8 - Imagine all the ways that each person can help alleviate world problems such as hunger, poverty and disease.
- 2.9 - Justify why each person is responsible to preserve the earth's beauty and resources because God gave this world to all people.
- 2.10 - Illustrate the effects of pollution on the earth and what will result if steps are not taken to preserve all creation.

### **Section III - We are God's Family**

How does the Christian faith nurture spirituality, encourage respect for the life and dignity of the human person, and appreciate the religious traditions and cultures of others based on the belief that we are all children of God?

#### **Expectation #1**

- 1.0 - Each person is drawn to God who, in creating them, has placed a desire for happiness in their hearts.
  - 1.1 - Explain how Jesus as the redeemer of humanity.
  - 1.2 - Justify how God is everywhere.
  - 1.3 - Illustrate how grace is God's presence within each person.

#### **Expectation #2**

- 2.0 - The Church is the People of God, the Body of Christ and the Community of Faith.
  - 2.1 - Explain how the Church is a community of saints, past, present and future.
  - 2.2 - Illustrate how the Church continues to be Christ's presence on earth and carries on His work.
  - 2.3 - Describe how Jesus calls all people to share in bringing about the Kingdom of God.
  - 2.4 - Identify how the Catholic Church is a global community of persons whose cultural traditions enrich the experience of faith.
  - 2.5 - Compare how each Christian, single, married, cleric or religious is called by Baptism to follow Christ and minister to others.

- 2.5 - Show how lay women and men contribute to their Faith community through their parish community as well as their daily witness to Gospel values.
- 2.6 - Explain how ordained priesthood, diaconate and religious life are specific responses to the Baptismal call to minister in a special way to God's People.

**Expectation #3**

3.0 - The church expresses basic principles of Catholic teaching on the family.

- 3.1 - Illustrate the human reproductive system and the many stages of the human life cycle.
- 3.2 - Identify ways one responsibly cares for one's body.
- 3.3 - Justify the right to say "no" because of one's personal responsibility over one's body.
- 3.4 - Describe the rights and duties of belonging to a family community.
- 3.5 - Describe the process of reconciliation within the family.
- 3.6 - Explain the nature and importance of sexuality as a divine gift, a fundamental component of personality, and an enrichment of the whole person - body, emotions, soul - whose deepest meaning is to lead the person to the gift of self in love.
- 3.8 - Justify why chastity is a virtue that develops a person's authentic maturity and makes him or her capable of guiding the sexual instinct in the service of love and integrating it into his or her psychological and spiritual development.
- 3.9 - Examine the human and Christian values that sexuality is intended to express.
- 3.10 - Identify the moral norms regarding sexuality that are taught by the Church.

## **Religion Curriculum Guidelines Grade Six:**

### **Section I - We Believe**

Essential Question: How do the traditions, rituals, and history of the church impact individuals and today's society?

#### **Expectation #1.**

1.0 - Scripture has relevant meaning for life today.

- 1.1 - Compare how the authors of the Bible used many different literary forms to convey God's message.
- 1.2 - Describe the major figures in the development of God's relationship with the chosen people.
- 1.3 - Explain why the Exodus as the central saving event of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- 1.4 - Describe how the Hebrew Scriptures are fulfilled in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Christian Scriptures (New Testament).
- 1.5 - Demonstrate how the Christian Scriptures encompass the life of Christians in the early days of the Church.
- 1.6 - Debate why the Bible is the Word of God, which tells the story of God's people.
- 1.7 - Illustrate how the Bible defines God's chosen people.
- 1.8 - Argue how Jesus is the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- 1.9 - Diagram how God is revealed through the Sacred Scriptures.

#### **Expectation #2**

2.0 - The early history of the Church has a profound impact on the current church today.

- 2.1 - Illustrate the role of the Catholic Church in world history.
- 2.2 - Interpret why throughout the Church's history there have been periods of needed reform.
- 2.3 - Name the many saints in the Church throughout the ages and compare their similarities to the many holy people who are living within society today.
- 2.4 - Describe Mary and her role in the life of the Church.

### **We Believe**

#### **Expectation #3**

3.0 - The doctrine and dogma of the church are found in the Creedal statements.

- 3.1 - Justify why the Paschal Mystery is the heart of the Catholic faith.
- 3.2 - Debate why the Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

#### **Expectation #4**

The Trinity is revealed to all people in the person, word, and works of Jesus.

- 4.1 - Demonstrate how God is the Supreme Being, who always was and always will be.

- 4.2 - Explain your understanding of the Incarnation - Jesus took flesh and became human in all things but sin.
- 4.3 - Tell how the Holy Spirit sanctifies, or makes holy, one's mind and heart.

### **We Worship**

#### **Expectation #5**

5.0 - Sacraments are important moments in the life of the community especially the centrality of the Eucharist.

- 5.1 - Illustrate how the Sacraments are actions of the risen Christ working through His church to love, heal and call each person to change.
- 5.2 - Justify how the seven sacraments express and enrich one's faith.
- 5.3 - Illustrate how the sacramental actions of the Church originated in Jewish rituals (laying on of hands, anointing with oil, purifying with water, sharing a meal).
- 5.4 - Compare the seven sacraments, their signs and symbols and how they mediate God's grace.

#### **Expectation #6**

The Eucharistic Liturgy (the Mass) is the communal celebration of the Paschal Mystery in which each is called to full and active participation.

- 6.1 - Explain how the faithful worship as a community at the Eucharistic Liturgy.
- 6.2 - Restate the responses used at the Eucharistic Liturgy.
- 6.3 - Describe how the Church gathers at the Eucharistic Liturgy to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- 6.4 - Argue why the Eucharistic Liturgy is the central prayer of the Catholic community.
- 6.5 - Explain why all of the Eucharistic Liturgy is considered prayer.
- 6.6 - Justify why it is one's responsibility to fully and actively participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy.

### **We Pray**

#### **Expectation #7**

7.0 - Catholic prayer and traditions are an important aspect of the life of the church.

- 7.1 - Explain why one needs to show appreciation for the Word of God by attentive listening and responding to it in life.
- 7.2 - Create and demonstrate various forms of prayer: formal, informal, spontaneous, reflective, personal, mantra, music and movement, guided meditation and communal.
- 7.3 - Evaluate the aspects of community prayer, by praying in a group, attending prayer services or liturgies and visiting the church.
- 7.4 - Compose prayers such as blessings, psalms, petitions and contemporary reflections on the Mysteries of the Rosary.
- 7.5 - Demonstrate the responses of the liturgy as prayer.
- 7.6 - Explain why the Stations of the Cross is a devotional tradition of the Church.

- 7.8 - Justify why the Mass is the highest form of worship and prayer.
- 7.9 - Examine why the Psalms are prayers that Jesus prayed while on earth and evaluate why they remain an important part of Catholic worship today.
- 7.10 - Recite and explain the traditional prayers of the Church:
  - Sign of the Cross
  - Our Father
  - Hail Mary
  - Grace Before and After Meals
  - Doxology (Glory to the Father...)
  - Act of Contrition
  - Apostles' Creed
  - Nicene Creed
  - A knowledge and appreciation of the traditional prayers of the Church:
    - The Rosary
    - Prayer of St. Francis
    - Acts of Faith, Hope and Love
    - Prayer of the Holy Spirit
    - Hail Holy Queen
    - Stations of the Cross

## **Section II - We Live**

How do the teachings of social justice and morality, and the act of serving others affect the quality of life for individuals and the community?

### **Expectation #1**

- 1.0 - Moral teaching, give individuals the ability to make good moral decisions and to act in a responsible, Christian manner.
  - 1.1 - Demonstrate the ability to make moral decisions and to evaluate the consequences of one's actions.
  - 1.2 - Compare the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and God's Law of Love as guidelines in the formation of conscience.
  - 1.3 - Illustrate the meaning of freedom and how to exercise freedom responsibly.

### **Expectation #2**

- 2.0 - The seven key principles of the Catholic Social Teachings can be applied to personal and societal situations.
  - 2.1 - Express how each person possesses a basic dignity that comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment.
  - 2.2 - Describe God's teachings on human dignity in the Bible.
  - 2.3 - Identify the positive values that are exemplified within the family and describe how family contributes to society through participation in community, church and state.
  - 2.4 - Explain one's basic human rights and responsibilities and justify why people have an obligation to respect the rights of others and to work for the common good.

- 2.5 - Justify why as Christians each person is called to respond to the needs of all members of society and illustrate the ways that Christians can aid the vulnerable.
- 2.6 - Compare ways that work is an expression of dignity and people have the right to decent and productive work.
- 2.7 - Explain how by virtue of Baptism, every Christian is called to service and this call is fulfilled through a variety of lifestyles and ministries.
- 2.8 - Discuss how, as one human family, each person is responsible to defend the dignity and rights of people everywhere.
- 2.9 - Illustrate how everyone hurts when injustice exists within the human race.
- 2.10 - Debate how God entrusted each person to be caretakers of the created world and to conserve and preserve it for future generations.

### **Section III - We are God's Family**

How does the Christian faith nurture spirituality, encourage respect for the life and dignity of the human person, and appreciate the religious traditions and cultures of others based on the belief that we are all children of God?

#### **Expectation #1**

- 1.0 - Each person is drawn to God who, in creating them, has placed a desire for happiness in their hearts.
  - 1.1 - Argue why faith is a gift from God.
  - 1.2 - Demonstrate how Jesus is the foundation of the Christian Catholic faith.

#### **Expectation #2**

- 2.0 - The Church is the People of God, the Body of Christ and the Community of Faith.
  - 2.1 - Demonstrate how the Church is a sign of God's presence in the world today.
  - 2.2 - Examine how the Catholic Church is a global community of persons whose cultural traditions enrich the experience of faith.
  - 2.3 - Explain how each Christian, single, married, cleric or religious is called by Baptism to follow Christ and minister to others.
  - 2.4 - Describe how lay women and men contribute to their Faith community through their parish community as well as their daily witness to Gospel values.
  - 2.5 - Identify how ordained priesthood, and religious life are specific responses to the Baptismal call to minister in a special way to God's people.

#### **Expectation #3**

- 3.0 - The church expresses basic principals of Catholic teaching on the family.
  - 3.1 - Explain how the gift of human life begins at the moment of conception.
  - 3.2 - Explain the nature and importance of sexuality as a divine gift, a fundamental component of personality, and an enrichment of the whole person - body, emotions, soul - whose deepest meaning is to lead the person to the gift of self in love.

- 3.3 - Justify why chastity is a virtue that develops a person's authentic maturity and makes him or her capable of guiding the sexual instinct in the service of love and integrating it into his or her psychological and spiritual development.
- 3.4 - Examine the human and Christian values that sexuality is intended to express.
- 3.5 - Express a knowledge of, and respect for, the moral norms regarding sexuality that are taught by the Church.
- 3.6 - Examine the nature of aging and the Christian meaning of death and new life.

## **Religion Curriculum Guidelines Grade Seven:**

### **Section I - We Believe**

Essential Question: How do the traditions, rituals, and history of the church impact individuals and today's society?

#### **Expectation #1**

1.0 - Scripture has great meaning for life today.

- 1.1 - Describe how Jesus teaches about God, prayer, justice, peace, service and moral life in the New Testament.
- 1.2 - Determine how Scripture teaches about the person of Jesus and what following Jesus and living the Good News means.
- 1.3 - Locate in the Gospels examples of how Jesus dedicated His life to the marginalized of society.

#### **Expectation #2**

2.0 - The early history of the church has a profound impact on the current Church today.

- 2.1 - Plot and sequence on a timeline the major historical events of the Church.
- 2.2 - Critique the role of the Catholic Church in world history.
- 2.3 - Articulate how Rome historically became and remains the governing center of the Roman Catholic Church.
- 2.4 - Break down the significance and impact of the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II).
- 2.5 - Illustrate the ways the Church, as institution, communicates and teaches with the faithful through councils and encyclicals.
- 2.6 - Describe the role of the prophets, martyrs, and saints in the history of the Church.
- 2.7 - Create a model of the canonization process.

#### **Expectation #3**

3.0 - The doctrine and dogma of the church are found in the Creedal statements.

- 3.1 - Describe how there is only one true God, who is revealed as three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- 3.2 - Justify why Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one sent by God.
- 3.3 - Explain why the Resurrection is God's victory over sin and death and a source of life.
- 3.4 - Deduce why Jesus' passion, death, resurrection and glorification is called the Paschal Mystery.

#### **Expectation #4**

4.0 - The Trinity is revealed to all people in the person, word, and works of Jesus.

- 4.1 - Explain how God is revealed in the life of Jesus Christ, in the Sacred Scriptures, in tradition, and in the life of the Church.

- 4.2 - Demonstrate how the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church today guiding and inspiring the people of God to carry on the mission of Jesus.

### **We Worship**

#### **Expectation #5**

- 5.0 - Sacraments as important moments in the life of the community especially the centrality of the Eucharist.

- 5.1 - Show how the Sacraments are visible signs of God's grace.  
5.2 - Prove how the Sacraments are community celebrations that call each person to share the love of God with others.  
5.3 - Justify why the purpose of the Sacraments is to give each person a share in the life of Christ.  
5.4 - Express how the Eucharist celebrates the eternal presence of the risen Christ.  
5.5 - Defend the central place Sacraments have in one's Christian life.

#### **Expectation #6**

- 6.0 - The Eucharistic Liturgy (the Mass) is the communal celebration of the Paschal Mystery in which each is called to full and active participation.

- 6.1 - Explain why the Church gathers at the Eucharistic Liturgy to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.  
6.2 - Name the liturgical ministries (acolyte, lector, Eucharistic minister, greeter...)  
6.3 - Compare and contrast the two main parts of the Eucharistic celebration, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, as well as two smaller rites, the Introductory Rite and the Concluding Rite.  
6.4 - Correlate the importance of song, silence, response, gesture and movement in the Eucharistic Liturgy.  
6.5 - Point out how Christ is present in the person of the minister, in the Eucharistic elements, in the Word and in the gathered assembly.  
6.6 - Defend why it is one's responsibility to fully and actively participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy.  
6.7 - Compare and contrast the liturgical seasons and how the scripture and environment reflect the season.  
6.8 - Demonstrate how the lectionary contains the readings for the three-year cycle of the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy.  
6.9 - Defend the need for ritual.

### **We Pray**

#### **Expectation #7**

- 7.0 - Catholic prayer and traditions are an important aspect of the life of the church.

- 7.1 - Explain the need to show our appreciation for the Word of God by attentive listening and responding to it in life.

- 7.2 - Participate in all forms of prayer: formal, informal, spontaneous, reflective, personal, mantra, music and movement, guided meditation and communal.
- 7.3 - Evaluate the aspects of community prayer by praying in a group, attending prayer services or liturgies and visiting the church.
- 7.4 - Compose prayers for specific events, celebrations, and prayer services.
- 7.5 - Learn the responses of the liturgy as prayer.
- 7.6 - Explain how prayer is central in a Catholic Christian life, particularly in celebration of the liturgy.
- 7.7 - Examine why the Psalms are prayers that Jesus prayed while on earth and evaluate why they remain an important part of Catholic worship today.
- 7.8 - Communicate how each person develops a relationship with God through personal prayer.
- 7.9 - Recite and explain the traditional prayers of the Church:
  - Sign of the Cross
  - Our Father
  - Hail Mary
  - Grace Before and After Meals
  - Doxology (Glory to the Father...)
  - Act of Contrition
  - Apostles' Creed
  - Nicene Creed
  - A knowledge and appreciation of the traditional prayers of the Church:
    - The Rosary
    - Prayer of St. Francis
    - Acts of Faith, Hope and Love
    - Prayer of the Holy Spirit
    - Hail Holy Queen
    - Psalm 23
    - Stations of the Cross

## **Section II - We Live**

How do the teachings of social justice and morality, and the act of serving others affect the quality of life for individuals and the community?

### **Expectation #1**

- 1.0 - Moral teachings, give individuals the ability to make good moral decisions and to act in a responsible, Christian manner.
  - 1.1 - Demonstrate the steps that each person must make in a good moral decisions by reflection, talking to others who can help us, and praying to the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength.
  - 1.2 - Relate how to respond to moral dilemmas using the life of Jesus and the teachings of the Church.
  - 1.3 - Compare and contrast the Ten Commandments, Jesus' Great Commandment of Love, the Beatitudes and Jesus' teachings as the foundation to be used in the process of making good moral decisions.

- 1.4 - Research how conscience formation is an on-going, life-long process.
- 1.5 - Give examples of how one's conscience is a gift from God that helps each person discern right from wrong.

### **Expectation #2**

2.0 - The seven key principles of the Catholic Social Teachings can be applied to personal and societal situations.

- 2.1 - Justify why as followers of Jesus, each person is called to act with compassion and justice.
- 2.2 - Explain how the family is the basic unit where each person learns and acts on learned values.
- 2.3 - Describe how each person has a right and responsibility to participate in and contribute to the diverse communities in society.
- 2.4 - Discuss how followers of Jesus are Church, and are thus called to reach out with Christ to others, especially those who suffer.
- 2.5 - Argue the need to respect people of other cultures.
- 2.6 - Identify how Jesus' teachings of the basic principles of life.
- 2.7 - Explain how all persons can make a difference, especially making use of their own talents
- 2.8 - Compare and contrast the major ministries of the Church.
- 2.9 - Demonstrate how each person is a member of one body of people in the world.
- 2.10 - Defend the importance of caring for creation and research ways to participate in activities that promote stewardship of the earth.

### **Section III - We are God's Family**

How does the Christian faith nurture spirituality, encourage respect for the life and dignity of the human person, and appreciate the religious traditions and cultures of others based on the belief that we are all children of God?

### **Expectation #1**

1.0 - Each person is drawn to God who, in creating them, has placed a desire for happiness in their hearts.

- 1.1 - Explain how a deep relationship with Jesus requires a personal faith commitment.
- 1.2 - Discuss the need to know and respect those people who profess other faiths.

### **Expectation #2**

2.0 - The Church is the People of God, the Body of Christ and the Community of Faith.

- 2.1 - Explain the history, work and role of religious orders and the call to religious life today.
- 2.2 - Demonstrate how through Baptism each person is called to be active participants in the community of faith.
- 2.3 - Illustrate how the Catholic Church is a global community.
- 2.4 - Argue how the heritage of various cultures enrich the experience and tradition of the Church.

- 2.5 - Discuss how each Christian, single, married, cleric or religious is called by Baptism to follow Christ and minister to others.
- 2.6 - Demonstrate how lay women and men contribute to their faith community through their parish community as well as their daily witness to Gospel values.
- 2.7 - Show how ordained priesthood, diaconate and religious life are specific responses to the Baptismal call to minister in a special way to God's People.

**Expectation #3**

3.0 - The church expresses basic principles of Catholic teaching on the family.

- 3.1 - Describe how through communication all family members develop in mind, body and spirit.
- 3.2 - Defend how life within the Catholic Christian family is the responsibility of each member.
- 3.3 - Express the need for respect of the reproductive function of the human body.
- 3.4 - Defend the nature and importance of sexuality as a divine gift, a fundamental component of personality, and an enrichment of the whole person - body, emotions, soul - whose deepest meaning is to lead the person to the gift of self in love.
- 3.5 - Justify why chastity is a virtue that develops a person's authentic maturity and makes him or her capable of guiding the sexual instinct in the service of love and integrating it into his or her psychological and spiritual development.
- 3.6 - Examine the human and Christian values that sexuality is intended to express.
- 3.7 - Describe and justify the need to respect the moral norms regarding sexuality that are taught by the Church.

## **Religion Curriculum Guidelines-Grade Eight:**

### **Section I - We Believe**

Essential Question: How do the traditions, rituals, and history of the church impact individuals and today's society?

#### **Expectation #1**

1.0 - Scripture has great meaning for life today.

- 1.1 - Articulate how the Bible was inspired by God and illustrate the many different literary styles found within the Bible.
- 1.2 - Use Scripture for prayer and liturgy.
- 1.3 - Transfer ideas from Scripture to daily life.

#### **Expectation #2**

2.0 - The student will demonstrate an understanding of the history of the Church.

- 2.1 - Diagram the major historical events of the Church.
- 2.2 - Defend how the most current teachings of the Church are set out during the most recent council gathering - Vatican Council II.
- 2.3 - Justify why knowledge of the history of the Church is essential to a proper understanding of the faith.
- 2.4 - Discuss the impact of the history of the Church in the United States.
- 2.5 - Argue how tradition is ongoing and yet evolving.
- 2.6 - Characterize the lives of modern day saints.

#### **Expectation #3**

3.0 - The doctrine and dogma of the church are found in the Creedal statements.

- 3.1 - Explain how there is only one true God, who is revealed as three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- 3.2 - Justify how Jesus is Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one sent by God.
- 3.3 - Demonstrate how the Resurrection is God's victory over sin and death and a source of life.
- 3.4 - Explain why the Jesus' passion, death, resurrection and glorification is called the Paschal Mystery.

#### **Expectation #4**

4.0 - The Trinity is revealed to all people in the person, word, and works of Jesus.

- 4.1 - Argue why by the grace of Baptism, each person is called to share in the life of the Blessed Trinity, here on earth and after death in eternal light.
- 4.2 - Defend why God created the world to show His glory.
- 4.3 - Deduce why the Incarnation is the mystery of the union of the divine and human natures in the person of Jesus, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

- 4.4 - Explain how, through the power of the Holy Spirit, God gave the world, Jesus, through Mary.

### We Worship

#### **Expectation #5**

5.0 - Sacraments are moments in the life of the community, especially the centrality of the Eucharist.

- 5.1 - Explain how the Sacraments are actions of the risen Christ acting through His Church to love, heal and call each person to change.
- 5.2 - Express how through the Sacrament of Baptism each person is called to serve, witness and proclaim the Good News.
- 5.3 - Debate how the Eucharist, that was instituted by Christ at the Last Supper, is the real presence of Christ among the faithful.

#### **Expectation #6**

6.0 - The Eucharistic Liturgy (the Mass) is the communal celebration of the Paschal Mystery in which each is called to full and active participation.

- 6.1 - Discuss how the Church gathers at the Eucharistic Liturgy to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- 6.2 - Justify why the Eucharistic Liturgy is the central prayer of the Catholic community.
- 6.3 - Argue for the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine offered at the Eucharistic Liturgy.
- 6.4 - Compare and contrast the liturgical seasons, feasts and solemnities of the Church year.
- 6.5 - Compare and contrast the liturgical ministries (acolyte, lector, Eucharistic minister, greeter...)
- 6.6 - Compare and contrast the two main parts of the Eucharistic celebration, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, as well as two smaller rites, the Introductory Rite and the Concluding Rite.
- 6.7 - Justify the importance of song, silence, response, gesture and movement in the Eucharistic Liturgy.
- 6.8 - Decide how Christ is present in the person of the minister, in the Eucharistic elements, in the Word and in the gathered assembly.
- 6.9 - Describe and defend why the primary liturgical symbols are the altar, the ambo, the assembly, the presider's chair, and the baptismal font.
- 6.10 - Defend the need for ritual.
- 6.11 - Evaluate one's responsibility to fully and actively participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy.
- 6.12 - Compare and contrast the liturgical seasons and how the scripture and environment reflect the season.
- 6.13 - Articulate how the lectionary contains the readings for the three-year cycle of the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy.

- 6.14 - Explain the importance of environment and art and how it relates to liturgical seasons and enhances worship.
- 6.15 - Explain the seasons of the Church year: Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, and Ordinary Time
- 6.16 - Determine how the Eucharistic Liturgy prepares the faithful for how to be in the world; a people of welcome, service and prayer.

## We Pray

### **Expectation #7**

7.0 - Catholic prayer and traditions are an important aspect of the life of the church.

- 7.1 - Explain the need to show our appreciation for the Word of God by attentive listening and responding to it in life.
- 7.2 - Defend the need for active and conscious participation in liturgy and other prayer experiences.
- 7.3 - Create and participate in all forms of prayer: formal, informal, spontaneous, reflective, personal, mantra, music and movement, guided meditation and communal.
- 7.4 - Experience community prayer by praying in a group, attending prayer services or liturgies and visiting the church.
- 7.5 - Locate and use a variety of liturgy planning resources for liturgies and other prayer experiences.
- 7.6 - Compose prayers for specific events, celebrations and prayer services.
- 7.7 - Learn the responses of the liturgy as prayer.
- 7.8 - Explain why prayer is central in a Catholic Christian life, particularly in celebration of the liturgy.
- 7.9 - Defend how the Psalms, that are prayers Jesus prayed while on earth, remain an important part of Catholic worship today.
- 7.10 - Articulate the practical role of prayer in sustaining a God-centered life.
- 7.11 - Justify how each person develops a relationship with God through personal prayer.
- 7.12 - Recite and explain the meaning of the traditional prayers of the Church.
  - Sign of the Cross
  - Our Father
  - Hail Mary
  - Grace Before and After Meals
  - Doxology (Glory to the Father . . .)
  - Act of Contrition
  - Apostles' Creed
  - Nicene Creed
  - A knowledge and appreciation of the traditional prayers of the Church:
    - The Rosary
    - Prayer of St. Francis
    - Acts of Faith, Hope and Love
    - Prayer of the Holy Spirit
    - Hail Holy Queen

Psalm 23  
Stations of the Cross

### **Section II - We Live**

How do the teachings of social justice and morality, and the act of serving others affect the quality of life for individuals and the community?

#### **Expectation #1**

1.0 - Moral teachings, give individuals the ability to make good moral decisions and to act in a responsible, Christian manner.

- 1.1 - Explain how moral values come from the teachings of Jesus.
- 1.2 - Describe the communal aspect of sin.
- 1.3 - Prove how the Ten Commandments, Jesus' Great Commandment of Love, the Beatitudes and Jesus' teachings are the foundation to be used in the process of making good moral decisions.
- 1.4 - Assess how Christian values help each person make social, economic, and political choices that build the kingdom of God.

#### **Expectation #2**

2.0 - The Catholic Social Teachings can be applied to personal and societal situations.

- 2.1 - Describe how Jesus faced prejudice during His life on earth and defend His response as a model for Christians today.
- 2.2 - Demonstrate how Jesus models respect and reverence for human life.
- 2.3 - Examine the importance of participating in society and contributing to the common good and defend the need to advance the common good in society.
- 2.4 - Compare and contrast how the Church has addressed social justice issues and how much more needs to be done.
- 2.5 - Justify why as Christians, each person needs to put the poor first.
- 2.6 - Communicate why the Beatitudes are a blueprint for a Christian life.
- 2.7 - Dramatize what it means to be a sign of contradiction to society's values.
- 2.8 - Explain how by virtue of Baptism and Confirmation, every Christian is called to service and this call is fulfilled through a variety of lifestyles and ministries.
- 2.9 - Show how being a Christian influences our values and priorities.
- 2.10 - Document the underlying issues of labor disputes and legislation in place to protect workers.
- 2.11 - Defend the need to be committed to world peace and how to work for it.
- 2.12 - Show how a consumer culture impacts each person and the earth and how we can use our personal talents to care for the earth.

### **Section III - We are God's Family**

How does the Christian faith nurture spirituality, encourage respect for the life and dignity of the human person, and appreciate the religious traditions and cultures of others based on the belief that we are all children of God?

### **Expectation #1**

1.0 - Each person is drawn to God who, in creating them, has placed a desire for happiness in their hearts.

- 1.1 - Describe how God calls each person by name.
- 1.2 - Articulate and examine reasons for believing in God.

### **Expectation #2**

2.0 - The Church is the People of God, the Body of Christ and the Community of Faith.

- 2.1 - Explain the history, work and role of religious orders and the call to religious life today.
- 2.2 - Demonstrate how through baptism each person is called to be active participants in the community of faith.
- 2.3 - Articulate how the Catholic Church is a global community.
- 2.4 - Show how the heritage of various cultures enrich the experience and tradition of the Church.
- 2.5 - Express how each Christian, single, married, cleric or religious is called by Baptism to follow Christ and minister to others.
- 2.6 - Show how lay women and men contribute to their Faith community through their parish community as well as their daily witness to Gospel values.
- 2.7 - Explain how ordained priesthood, diaconate and religious life are specific responses to the Baptismal call to minister in a special way to God's people.

### **Expectation #3**

3.0 - The church expresses the basic principles of Catholic teaching on the family.

- 3.1 - Describe how through communication all family members develop in mind, body and spirit.
- 3.2 - Defend how life within the Catholic Christian family is the responsibility of each member.
- 3.3 - Explain the need for respect of the reproductive function of the human body.
- 3.4 - Defend the nature and importance of sexuality as a divine gift, a fundamental component of personality, and an enrichment of the whole person - body, emotions, soul - whose deepest meaning is to lead the person to the gift of self in love.
- 3.5 - Justify how chastity as a virtue that develops a person's authentic maturity and makes him or her capable of guiding the sexual instinct in the service of love and integrating it into his or her psychological and spiritual development.
- 3.6 - Explain the human and Christian values that sexuality is intended to express.
- 3.7 - Defend the need to respect the moral norms regarding sexuality that are taught by the Church.