

Religion Guidelines
Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Sixth Grade	Rev.	New	Intro	Seventh Grade
The Faith Professed				The Faith Professed
Doctrine				Doctrine
A 'mystery' of Faith is something that we can only partially understand on Earth. Our minds can understand a part and our faith does make sense, but we can never fully understand or explain the mystery. God calls us to reflect on the mystery and use our minds to explore the mystery and our heart to love him as we explore the mystery.				
The greatest mystery of our faith is God, the Holy Trinity.	X			The greatest mystery of our faith is God, the Holy Trinity. State that the Divine Persons are relative to one another, and that each person is wholly and entirely God.
		X		Recognize that the Trinity is a complete unity without confusing the Persons or dividing the substance of God.
		X		Each Person of the Holy Trinity is distinct, but not separate.
Recognize that the Trinity is the source of all goodness and of all other mysteries of Faith.	X			Recognize that the Trinity is the source of all goodness and of all other mysteries of Faith.
Recognize that each person of the Trinity is fully God.	X			Recognize that each person of the Trinity is fully God.
God is pure, uncreated spirit. God always was, is now, and always will be, and always remains the same.	X			God is pure, uncreated spirit. God always was, is now, and always will be, and always remains the same.
Recognize the actions of God as trinitarian actions, revealed by Scripture and Tradition and stated in the creed.	X			Recognize the actions of God as trinitarian actions, revealed by Scripture and Tradition and stated in the creed.
Explain the basic truths of the Catholic Church using the Apostle's Creed.				
God is loving, forgiving, and always keeps his promises. We cannot earn his love or make him love us more.				
God the Father created everything (angels, the universe, and people) out of love, because he wanted to share his own goodness, because he loved us. All creation shows us the wisdom and beauty of God.				
God the Father, the Creator, is made known to us by Divine Revelation.	X			God the Father, the Creator, is made known to us by Divine Revelation.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Divine Revelation is God's self-disclosure to human beings, where he conveys his own divine life as well as his plan for creation. Scripture and Sacred Tradition make up Divine Revelation.		X		Understand that some things we know about God from faith (Divine Revelation), and others we can know by human reason.
Recognize that Divine Revelation culminates in the person and mission of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ.	X			Recognize that Divine Revelation culminates in the person and mission of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ.
Recognize that there is no new revelation after the death of the last apostle. We can understand more fully what God has revealed, but everything is contained in the revelation given to us by Jesus.	X			Recognize that there is no new revelation after the death of the last apostle. We can understand more fully what God has revealed, but everything is contained in the revelation given to us by Jesus.
		X		Faith and reason help us to know and love God.
		X		Know and explain how we can know that God exists by human reason alone. (c.f. the YouCat and St. Thomas's Five Proofs of the Existence of God)
		X		Understand that people can come to believe in the one true God through creation and from being open to the human person.
God shares his inner life with people, revealing who He is and His plan for us.		X		Discuss the divine pedagogy, especially the way that God reveals himself gradually and patiently and in the concrete lives of real people.
The Second Person of the Holy Trinity became man while remaining God. He is fully God and fully man. He is Jesus Christ.		X		The Son of God assumed a human nature to accomplish our salvation in it. Jesus is fully God and fully man in one person. This is called the hypostatic union.
		X		Jesus is one Divine Person, with a Divine Nature and a Human Nature. His Divine Nature means that he can do the activities of God and his Human Nature means that he can do the activities of a human person.
		X		Since Jesus really assumed a human nature, he became like us in everything but sin.
Jesus came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven for us.		X		Jesus came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven for us.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

		X		Students will list and explain the titles of Jesus (Christ, Son of God, Son of Man, Lord, New Adam, Son of David, etc.) Light of the world, King of the Jews, Rabbi, Alpha and Omega, Morning Star
Jesus is the one whose whole earthy life reveals who God is. "He who has seen me, has seen the Father." Jn 14:9	X			Jesus is the one whose whole earthy life reveals who God is. "He who has seen me, has seen the Father." Jn 14:9
Jesus is priest, prophet and king.	X			Jesus is priest, prophet and king.
Jesus is the Messiah, and the fulfillment of the Old Covenant.	X			Jesus is the Messiah, and the fulfillment of the Old Covenant.
The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity, sent by the Father and the Son to dwell in our souls as our constant companion and guide.	X			The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity, sent by the Father and the Son to dwell in our souls as our constant companion and guide.
The Holy Spirit is the inspiration of Sacred Scripture, the breath of life, and the fire of love.	X			The Holy Spirit is the inspiration of Sacred Scripture, the breath of life, and the fire of love.
	X			It is important to know the Holy Spirit and develop a friendship with Him.
The four last things are death, judgment, heaven, and hell.	X			The four last things are death, judgment, heaven, and hell.
Offer a sensitive understanding of the Catholic view of death.	X			Offer a sensitive understanding of the Catholic view of death.
When we die, our body and soul separates, and our soul does not keep our body alive anymore.		X		Human life is changed at death, but not ended, and our bodies will rise again.
		X		The Mass of Christian Burial (Funeral Liturgy) celebrates the triumph of Christ over sin and death.
		X		Explore some of the prayers offered at the Mass of Christian Burial.
		X		The Mass is offered for those who are in purgatory that they may more quickly enter the glory of heaven.
The particular judgement happens when we die. Jesus judges our soul for heaven, hell, or purgatory.	X			The particular judgement happens when we die. Jesus judges our soul for heaven, hell, or purgatory.
Everyone who dies in God's grace and friendship go to heaven either immediately or after a time of cleansing in purgatory.	X			Everyone who dies in God's grace and friendship go to heaven either immediately or after a time of cleansing in purgatory.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Jesus will judge by the way we lived and loved. He is a good judge, who understands our efforts, judges justly according to the truth, and offers us mercy.	X			Jesus will judge by the way we lived and followed the Gospel. He is a good judge, who understands our efforts, judges justly according to the truth, and offers us mercy.
At the general judgement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our souls enliven our bodies again, forever - Everyone will see how our actions affected God's kingdom during our own life and after we died. - Jesus is revealed to the whole world - It does not "re-do" the particular judgement, which happens right after we die. 	X			At the general judgement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our souls enliven our bodies again, forever - Everyone will see how our actions affected God's kingdom during our own life and after we died. - Jesus is revealed to the whole world - It does not "re-do" the particular judgement, which happens right after we die.
An angel is a "spiritual, personal, and immortal creature, with intelligence and free will, who glorifies God without ceasing and who serves God as a messenger of his saving plan." (CCC glossary)	X			An angel is a "spiritual, personal, and immortal creature, with intelligence and free will, who glorifies God without ceasing and who serves God as a messenger of his saving plan." (CCC glossary)
Everyone has a guardian angel who guides and protects him or her. Guardian angels are powerful protectors and guides, and we should ask for their help.	X			Everyone has a guardian angel who guides and protects him or her. Guardian angels are powerful protectors and guides, and we should ask for their help.
		X		List the names of the archangels (Michael, Raphael, Gabriel) and list the tasks associated with them, identifying them in the Bible and in Sacred Tradition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael: Defender (battle against the devil when Lucifer fell, also Revelation 12, Daniel 10) - Raphael: Healer and guide (Guides Tobit's son and heals his daughter-in-law) - Gabriel: herald of the Incarnation (Annunciation, Zachariah's vision in the temple, Daniel's visions)
Bad angels, the chief of whom is the Devil, or Satan, choose to disobey God. Their goal is to separate us from God.	X			Bad angels, the chief of whom is the Devil, or Satan, choose to disobey God. Their goal is to separate us from God.
Satan is the father of lies.	X			Satan is the father of lies.
Because of the way that angels understand and make choices, their choice is final. They will always either serve God or disobey him. The devil cannot become a good angel, and the good angels cannot tempt us to do evil.		X		God tested the love of the angels. Because of the way that angels understand and make choices, their choice is final. they will always either serve God or disobey him. The devil

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

				cannot become a good angel, and the good angels cannot tempt us to do evil.
Heaven is the joy of being totally united with God, who is love, with Mary, the angels, and saints. Human beings are able to make a perfect self-gift to God and are able to receive his self-gift in return.	X			Heaven is the joy of being totally united with God, who is love, with Mary, the angels, and saints. Human beings are able to make a perfect self-gift to God and are able to receive his self-gift in return.
Heaven is supreme, unending happiness. It fulfills all our deepest desires, and it is always fresh and new. Heaven gets better with each moment and is never boring.	X			Heaven is supreme, unending happiness. It fulfills all our deepest desires, and it is always fresh and new. Heaven gets better with each moment and is never boring.
Heaven is the goal for which all persons were created. Earth is only a temporary home. Heaven is God's home and our real home.	X			Heaven is the goal for which all persons were created. Earth is only a temporary home. Heaven is God's home and our real home.
Peace, joy, and happiness now on earth helps us experience heaven early.	X			Peace, joy, and happiness now on earth helps us experience heaven early.
Hell is our choice to reject God and his will, to die unrepentant in mortal sin. It is everlasting suffering, the primary pain of which is separation from God. Hell also includes suffering of the senses.	X			Hell is our choice to reject God and his will, to die unrepentant in mortal sin. It is everlasting suffering, the primary pain of which is separation from God. Hell also includes suffering of the senses.
Purgatory is the last purification before heaven. Holy souls, who died in a state of grace but whose love is not perfect yet, are freed from the effects of sin so they can enter Heaven. Everyone in purgatory will be in heaven one day.	X			Purgatory is the last purification before heaven. Holy souls, who died in a state of grace but whose love is not perfect yet, are freed from the effects of sin so they can enter Heaven. Everyone in purgatory will be in heaven one day.
		X		Plenary and partial indulgences are spiritual prayers and good works offered by the Church to remove temporal punishment of the sins that have been forgiven.
Faith is a free gift from God so that we can love, believe, and follow him. It lets us believe in God even when we can't see Him and believe in what he teaches us through the Church. We must freely accept the gift from God to live in faith, and the Holy Spirit strengthens the gift of faith in our souls.	X			Faith is a gift from God, through the Church, and a theological virtue helping us accept and live God's revelation to us.
		X		Explain how faith is a personal relationship and a free and full acceptance of the truth God reveals.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

		X		Faith is certain, which means that we can be absolutely sure of the contents of the faith. Faith does not contradict human reason, but elevates it so that we understand God and created things in the light of God’s truth.
A creed is a short summary of our key beliefs. The Apostles Creed is a very short summary and has all the basic truths of the Catholic Faith. The Nicene Creed is more detailed.				
List and explain the reasons for the Precepts of the Church: 1) Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. 2) Receive the Eucharist at least once per year, in the Easter season. 3) Confess mortal sins at least once per year. 4) Observe the days of fasting and abstinence. 5) Help provide for the needs of the Church.	X			List and explain the reasons for the Precepts of the Church: 1) Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. 2) Receive the Eucharist at least once per year, in the Easter season. 3) Confess mortal sins at least once per year. 4) Observe the days of fasting and abstinence. 5) Help provide for the needs of the Church.
Scripture		Scripture		
The Bible		The Bible		
Show love and respect for the Bible as the Word of God, put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit.		X		Recognize that thoughtful, prayerful engagement with the Scriptures helps us to know Jesus better, brings us joy, and helps us to live our Christian lives.
Encourage daily personal reading from the Bible and engagement with the Scriptures.		X		Encourage daily personal reading from the Bible and engagement with the Scriptures.
God reveals Himself to us through Sacred Scripture (the Bible) and Sacred Tradition (the truths of God handed on from Christ and the apostles, through apostolic succession, that have been passed on by word of mouth as well as in writing).		X		Explore the necessity of an authority to teach and interpret Sacred Scripture. Describe how the Church has that authority.
Distinguish between human traditions and Sacred Tradition.		X		Catholic beliefs and practices are rooted in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
Scripture and Tradition are one common source of Revelation, but two distinct modes of transmission of Revelation.	X			Scripture and Tradition are one common source of Revelation, but two distinct modes of transmission of Revelation.
All of Sacred Scripture is inspired by God and was written in sections by various human beings over a long period of time.		X		Recognize that Sacred Scripture has both human and divine authorship to reveal what God intends.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Discuss that “God is the author of Sacred Scripture because he inspired its human authors.” (CCC 136)		X		Use the literary form of Biblical texts to distinguish literal details from inspired realities. Recognize that the two are not mutually exclusive and that they always work together to deepen our understanding of Scripture.
		X		Sacred Scripture always teaches without error God’s saving truth.
Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Church developed the list of which writings were inspired in the late 4 th century.	X			Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Church developed the list of which writings were inspired in the late 4 th century.
Recognize that each part of Scripture tells us more about salvation history, God’s unfolding work in time to save mankind.	X			Recognize that each part of Scripture tells us more about salvation history, God’s unfolding work in time to save mankind.
Explain how the Scripture narratives can be integrated into daily life and help us be faithful to the love, justice, and mercy of God’s reign.	X			Explain how the Scripture narratives can be integrated into daily life and help us be faithful to the love, justice, and mercy of God’s reign.
Recognize that there are 73 books in the Bible- 46 Old Testament and 27 New Testament.				
Identify the major sections of the Old Testament: The Pentateuch (or law), historical books, books of wisdom, and the prophetic books.				
List from memory the first five books of the Bible as Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. They are called the Pentateuch, also known as the Law or the Torah.				
Identify the major sections of the New Testament: The four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles (letters) and the book of Revelation.				
Look up Bible passages by book, chapter and verse.				
The Bible tells the story of Salvation History, which is God’s personal involvement in history to implement his plan to save us.	X			The Bible tells the story of Salvation History, which is God’s personal involvement in history to implement his plan to save us.
Salvation history is not like regular history because it deals with the past and future, not just the past.	X			Salvation history is not like regular history because it deals with the past and future, not just the past.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Order major events of salvation history and significant covenants on a time line (Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, John the Baptist, events in the life of Jesus).		X		Order major events of salvation history and significant covenants on a time line (include major prophets, kings, and judges).
Recognize that the Gospel of Matthew was written for the Jewish Christian community. He rearranges the teaching of Jesus into five discourses to highlight Jesus as bringing to fulfillment the five books of the Torah. It is written as a narrative and discourse. Much of Mark's gospel is included in Matthew's.				
Use a map to find Biblical locations from both Old and New Testaments.	X			Use a map to find Biblical locations from both Old and New Testaments.
Identify significant typology in the Scriptures as they are studied.	X			Identify significant typology in the Scriptures as they are studied.
Old Testament Scriptures				Old Testament Scriptures
God reveals himself and showed his faithfulness through a series of covenants. A covenant is a "solemn agreement between human beings or between God and a human being involving mutual commitments or guarantees" (CCC Glossary p. 873).				
Covenants establish a sacred family bond and unite persons in a union that is meant to last forever.	X			Covenants establish a sacred family bond and unite persons in a union that is meant to last forever. Recognize that because the covenant unites us to God, it is also a call to be holy.
Compare and contrast contract and covenant.				
Define "covenant" and "testament" as synonymous.				
Discuss the Jewish roots of our Christian faith, especially understanding sacrifice in the Old Testament.				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Give examples of how the Old Testament helps us understand Jesus, His promises, and our Christian faith, rooted in Judaism.	X		Give examples of how the Old Testament helps us understand Jesus, His promises, and our Christian faith, rooted in Judaism.
<p>Adam and Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation was the first covenant. - Creation of Adam and Eve (include the complementary nature of man and woman) - Adam’s job was to protect the garden, but he did not protect Eve from the devil. Eve’s job was to support Adam, but she invited him to sin. - Understand that evil entered the world through the Original Sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, where they broke God’s covenant. - At the heart of the first sin was distrust in God’s love (they believed that God was holding back something that was good), pride (they thought they could do things better than the way God said to), and disobedience (doing what God said not to do). - Original sin hands a wounded (not broken) human nature to all human beings. C.f. Theology of the Body standard for broken relationships and original sin. - Because of original sin, humans were not able to receive the original holiness or justice that God had planned for them from the beginning. - The inability to understand the way we should, suffering, death, and the inclination to sin are all a result of original sin. These effects illustrate the horror of sin. - God showed his mercy by immediately promising to send a savior. - Original sin makes Christian living more difficult, but Christ overcomes sin and helps us overcome sin, too. 		X	<p>Adam and Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation was the first covenant and beginning of salvation history. - Creation of Adam and Eve (include the complementary nature of man and woman) - Original sin hands a wounded (not broken) human nature to all human beings. C.f. Theology of the Body standard for broken relationships and original sin. - The inability to understand the way we should, suffering, death, and the inclination to sin are all a result of original sin. These effects illustrate the horror of sin and effect everyone - Original sin makes Christian living more difficult, but Christ overcomes sin and helps us overcome sin, too. - God showed his mercy by immediately promising to send a savior. This announcement is called the “protoevangelium” or first Gospel.
Cain and Abel			

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abel gave the best he had, while Cain only gave because he felt like he had to. Explore how this applies to the life of a Christian. 				
<p>Noah and the Ark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God made a covenant with Noah. Noah was supposed to be faithful to God, and protect every person because God made them in his own image. God gave Noah all the earth and its goods and promised never to destroy the world by a flood. - The sign of this covenant was a rainbow. - This event is a type of Baptism. (The human person is washed clean and cleansed of sin to start a new life in Christ.) 				
<p>Abraham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God changed Abram's name to Abraham when he renewed the covenant. - God made a covenant with Abraham. Abraham would worship only one, true God, and would be obedient. God would give him land and a nation, kingship and a name, and make him a blessing for all nations. (cf: Gn 12) - The fulfillment of the covenant began in Abraham's time, but was fully fulfilled later in salvation History: Land with Moses, Kingship with David, and blessing through Jesus. - We are all children of this covenant. - Abraham is an example of faith. He followed whatever God asked and believed that God would be faithful to his promises, even after years of waiting for them to be fulfilled. (cf. Hebrews 11:8-20) - Abraham shows his faith in that he is even willing to sacrifice Isaac, knowing that God would somehow 				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

bring him back from the dead. (c.f. Hebrews 11: 17-19)				
Define monotheism. Explain how it connects to the Jewish understanding of God, and how it was unique in the ancient world.				
Explore the story of Melchizedek and how it gives deeper meaning to our Christian faith.				
<p>Moses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First of the Old Testament prophets. - After leaving Egypt and before the Exodus, Moses unexpectedly encounters God in the burning bush at Sinai. - God revealed his sacred Name to Moses. - Knowing God’s Name meant knowing the truth about God. - The Name of God was so holy that the Hebrews did not speak it. - God told Moses to lead his people to worship, and Moses obeyed God and led the people out of Egypt. - Understand the events of the Passover. - Recognize that the Passover is a type of the saving sacrifice of Jesus and a foretelling of the Eucharist. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spotless, unblemished lamb (Jesus) is sacrificed. The blood is a sign that God’s punishment should not enter. The families need to eat the lamb (Jesus in the Eucharist), and are led out of slavery (to sin) through water (Baptism) to worship God in freedom. • Relate the title “Lamb of God” to the title that John the Baptist gives Jesus <p>Journey in the Desert</p>				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because the Israelites didn't believe that God would settle them in the Promised Land, they wandered in the desert for 40 years. - The 40 years in the desert prefigures the Christian life between Baptism and the Promised Land of Heaven. - God provides manna, which is a type of the Eucharist. - When they need water, God has Moses hit a rock with his staff, and water flows out. (Type of the crucifixion, when the soldiers struck Jesus with a lance, and blood and water flowed out) - Moses receives the 10 Commandments and gives them to the Israelites. They represent God's covenant with the Israelites and their promise to keep God's laws. - The 10 commandments were there to help the Israelites know how to use their new freedom and worship God. 				
After the Exodus, the Jewish people celebrated the Pesach as the celebration of liberation and retelling of the story of God's saving them from slavery.				
Discuss the Jewish roots of our Christian faith, especially in the priesthood of the Tribe of Levi.				
Recognize elements of Jesus's sacrifice on the Cross to the lamb sacrifices in the Old Testament.				
<p>Discuss the importance and contents of the Ark of the Covenant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God told Moses to build it as God's throne on earth, a shadow of his throne in heaven. - God dwells with his people in a special way - Tablets of the law were in the Ark, and God spoke to his people from the "mercy seat" the space above the two cherubim. 				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ark of the Covenant also held Aaron’s rod, a symbol of his priesthood, and a jar of manna. - The Ark of the Covenant is a type of the Tabernacle. God dwells with his people in a special way, and he speaks to us in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. - Discuss the role of the Ark of the Covenant in the Israelites’ journey in the desert. 				
<p>God spoke to Joshua like he did to Moses from the Ark of the Covenant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retell the story of the conquest of Jericho and entry into the Promised Land. - Explore Rahab’s role in the conquest of Jericho - Connect the entry into the Promised Land with God’s covenant. 				
<p>Understand the role of the judges as leaders in the Old Testament. When Israel turned away from God, their enemies started winning battles over them, and they repented and asked God to save them, God would send a judge, who would lead them into victory and peace and remind them to stay close to God.</p>				
<p>Explore the role of Deborah in Judges.</p>				
<p>Samuel was a famous and strong prophet of God. State the role of Samuel in the choice of the first kings of Israel.</p>				
<p>David</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand that David loved God - Understand that David repented from his sins, and he loved his people, even when they did mean things to him (Absolom, etc.) 				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Elijah and the other prophets told the Israelites the truth about right and wrong, and urged them to repent so that they could be close to God.				
The Prophet Isiah taught during the Assyrian Exile and foretold that God would restore David's kingdom. He also foretold that the Messiah would be a suffering servant.				
Discuss the Jewish roots of our Christian faith, especially understanding the suffering servant of Isiah.				
When Israel had fallen away he sent Jeremiah to call them to repent. Jeremiah had to tell them the truth about how bad things were (foretold the Babylonian exile), but he also gave them God's promise to preserve a remnant and send a messiah to make a new covenant with them.				
For a time, Israel was conquered by the Babylonians. Then the Persians took over and let them worship and go to Jerusalem again.				
Be familiar with the role and messages of Ezekiel and Daniel.				
Be familiar with the story and role Esther in Israel's history.				
Psalms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognize the psalms at Mass and in communal prayer. - Recognize times when the Psalms seem to speak to our particular situation. - Recognize that the Psalms are special Old Testament Prayers of praise, petition, thanksgiving, and sorrow. - Grow in appreciation for the fact that Jesus, Mary, and the saints prayed the Psalms 				
New Testament Scriptures	New Testament Scriptures			

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

		X		Identify the symbols of the four evangelists.
State that the Gospel of Matthew was written for a Jewish community and recognize ways that Matthew shows Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises in the Old Testament (esp. Torah)		X		State that the Gospel of Luke was written as a synoptic Gospel that shows salvation as a joyful surprise, offered to everyone.
Recognize Jesus as the “New Adam” and explain the meaning of that title.		X		Recognize Jesus’ mission extending from the Old Testament promises to the Jews to include the Gentiles.
Recognize that Jesus is the fulfillment of the covenant with King David and become familiar with Jesus’ genealogy through David to Abraham.		X		Understand the significance of the Temple to the Jews and Jesus’ mission.
Recognize how Jesus fulfills the prophesy of Emmanuel in the Book of Isiah.				
		X		Recognize examples of Luke’s special emphasis on the needs of the poor and role of women.
<p>Explain how Jesus’ Jewish culture impacted his mission and ministry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognize Jesus’ reverence for the Law and that Jesus followed the 10 Commandments. - Distinguish Jesus’ teachings from Jewish regulations. - Recognize the Jewish understanding of the Law (ceremonial law, regulations, etc) and God’s moral law. 			X	State the relationship between Jews and Gentiles in first century Palestine.
<p>Annunciation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus is one person with two natures: human and divine. With his divine nature, he does divine activities. With his human nature, he does human activities. - God chose to save us by becoming man through Mary’s obedience. 		X		Give evidence of the divine and human characteristics of Jesus.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison Seventh Grade Emphasis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus became man so we could share in His glory. - Mary was a virgin before and after Jesus' birth. 				
Describe the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.				
Recognize John the Baptist as the forerunner of the Messiah. Examine John's fidelity to the truth, even when it was difficult (Herod's wife).				
Christmas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explain how Matthew's gospel shows Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises in the Old Testament. - Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which translated means House of Bread. Jesus is the true Bread from heaven. Jesus was laid in a manger, a feeding trough, and he was going to offer himself to us in the Eucharist. 		X		Compare and contrast the infancy narratives in Luke and Matthew.
Epiphany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore how the Kings represent Gentiles and the whole world coming to God to worship and for salvation and reconciliation. 				
Explore Simeon's words to Mary at the Presentation.				
Explore Jesus' obedience to his parents and its meaning for our lives.				
Continue to explore the following themes in the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The final part of the Epiphany. - Mary's intercession is powerful. - God always provides more than we need. - Our obedience is important in allowing Jesus to work in our lives. - Recognize the parallel that here Jesus turns water into wine, and at every Mass he turns wine into His Body and Blood. 		X		Explore the following names of Jesus: Son of Adam, Son of Abraham, Son of God.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Explore how Jesus' challenge to be salt and light reveal the nature of the Kingdom of God.				
Identify the purpose of Jesus' healing ministry as told in Mt. 8:1-9:36.		X		Describe how Jesus prepares for his public ministry.
Examine Christian discipleship using the Beatitudes and readings in Mt. 10-11 and 13-14.				
Jesus performed miracles by his own power to show that he is the Son of God. Jesus' miracles had 3 purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reveal God's love and power - Manifest the presence of the Kingdom - Witness that Jesus was the messiah 				
Recognize the beginning of the Church's structure in Jesus' selection, formation, and commissioning of the 12 apostles.				
Recognize the typology between the Old Testament "Friend of the King" who carried the keys and the events in Matthew 16: 13-20.				
Retell the story of the Transfiguration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus was giving the apostles special strength to be ready for the crucifixion. - They saw Jesus in all his glory. - God reinforced that Jesus was the Messiah. 				
		X		Explore significant Old Testament passages that refer to Jesus and explain how they were fulfilled (including Is 9; Zech 9:9; Ez 34:23; Mi 5:1).
Retell the story of the Last Supper. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognize and explore the typology in the Last Supper (refer to the First Passover and to the way the Jewish people memorialized Passover in the desert and in Jesus' time). - Recognize the ways that Jesus transforms the Passover into the Mass. 				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus is the new Passover Lamb who took on sin to set us free by his suffering and death. 				
<p>Agony in the Garden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When life was difficult, Jesus trusted God rather than doubting he was there or loved him. - God the Father didn't force Jesus to save us. Even though he was very scared, he would rather save us than avoid His passion. Jesus chose to go to the Cross for us. 				
<p>Retell the story and meditate on the meaning of Jesus' condemnation, scourging, crucifixion, and death. Recognize Jesus as the suffering servant in Isaiah.</p>				
<p>Explore how each of the Easter stories fit together into one true narrative of the Resurrection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mt. 28:1-15 - Mary Magdalen at the tomb - The soldier's story - Journey to Emmaus - Jesus on the shore 		X		Describe the Resurrection narrative in the Gospel of Luke as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises and Jewish messianic hopes.
		X		Recognize the Resurrection of the dead as essential to Christianity. (Connect Jesus' Resurrection to our resurrection at the resurrection of the body.)
<p>Forty days after Easter, we celebrate the Ascension, when Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gave the apostles the Great Commission to go to all nations to teach, preach the Good News, and to baptize. - Returned to heaven body and soul - Went to prepare a place for us with him in Heaven. 				
<p>Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit several times when he was with the apostles. Explore the change in the apostles after they received the Holy Spirit.</p>				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Explore the action of the Holy Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles.		X		Define and identify themes in the Epistles (community, law, grace, salvation, Body of Christ, love, second coming, etc.). Apply themes to modern life.
		X		Explore the second coming of Christ as found in passages from the Gospels, Epistles and Revelation 22:17.

Religion Guidelines
Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Sacraments and Liturgical Life				Sacraments and Liturgical Life			
Sacraments				Sacraments			
The sacraments are personal meetings with Christ today, through the signs and symbols, to give grace.							
	X			Review the definition of Sacrament "A Sacrament is an outward sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace."			
Explain how the sacraments meet a person's needs in every moment of their life, all the way to their death.				X			Explain how the sacraments meet a person's needs in every moment of their life, all the way to their death.
Identify Old Testament events that prefigure the sacraments.				X			Identify Old Testament events that prefigure the sacraments.
Identify in the Scriptures where we see Jesus instituting each sacrament.				X			Identify in the Scriptures where we see Jesus instituting each sacrament.
Memorize the seven sacraments: 1) Baptism 2) Eucharist 3) Confirmation 4) Reconciliation 5) Holy Orders 6) Matrimony 7) Anointing of the Sick							
Recognize that the sacraments can be broken into groups: - The sacraments of initiation are Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. - The sacraments of healing are Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick - The sacraments of vocation/at the service of communion are Matrimony and Holy Orders.							
Discuss the meaning and difference between sign and symbol.							
Baptism				Baptism			
Students will renew Baptismal promises and learn the significance of renewing Baptismal promises.							Matter and form of baptism: Water and the words of the minister.
Baptism:				X			Baptism:

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Takes away all sins (original and personal) - Makes the person a member of the Church, the Body of Christ, and an adopted son/daughter of God. - Gives you an indelible character. - Gives the gifts of the Holy Spirit and theological virtues. - Gives sanctifying grace (God's life in our soul) and actual grace - Makes the person a temple of the Holy Spirit. - Makes us share in Jesus' mission to love God and share his love. - Heirs to eternal life and heaven - Made priest, prophet and king 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Takes away all sins (original and personal) - Makes the person a member of the Church, the Body of Christ, and an adopted son/daughter of God. - Gives you an indelible character. - Gives the gifts of the Holy Spirit and theological virtues. - Gives sanctifying grace (God's life in our soul) and actual grace - Makes the person a temple of the Holy Spirit. - Makes us share in Jesus' mission to love God and share his love. - Heirs to eternal life and heaven - Made priest, prophet and king
		X		Describe the nature of baptismal priesthood (make a sacrifice of our life and prayers to God as acts of love), prophet (teaching God's truth), and king (serving and leading to God's kingdom).
People can be baptized only once because of the sacramental character they receive in Baptism.				
In Baptism we enter into the New Covenant Jesus made by His death and resurrection.				
Eucharist (See Liturgy)		Eucharist (See Liturgy)		
Reconciliation		Reconciliation		
<p>The effects of the sacrament of Penance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forgiveness of sins - Reconciliation with God and the Church - Strengthening the resolve to do good and avoid sin in the future - Restoration of sanctifying grace, if the person was in a state of mortal sin 	X		<p>The effects of the sacrament of Penance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forgiveness of sins - Reconciliation with God and the Church - Strengthening the resolve to do good and avoid sin in the future - Restoration of sanctifying grace, if the person was in a state of mortal sin - Remission of temporal punishment due to sin - Peace and serenity of conscience 	

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

				- Increase in spiritual strength for the Christian battle
		X		The Church has the power to forgive sins because Jesus gave it to her.
To make a good confession, you need: 1) Examination of conscience 2) Confession of sins 3) Contrition (being sorry) 4) Purpose of Amendment (meaning to avoid sinning again, with God's grace) 5) Absolution from the priest 6) Penance from the priest	X			To make a good confession, you need: 1) Examination of conscience 2) Confession of sins 3) Contrition (perfect or imperfect works for the sacrament) 4) Purpose of Amendment (meaning to avoid sinning again, with God's grace) 5) Absolution from the priest 6) Penance from the priest
		X		There are two kinds of contrition - Perfect contrition: being sorry for sin because we love God and because the sins offended God. - Imperfect contrition: being sorry for sin because of the effects we see or because we are afraid of being punished for sin.
Conduct an age-appropriate examination of conscience. Help students recognize root sins and identify how to address them. For the teacher's background: http://www.totustuus.com/overcome.htm	X			Conduct an age-appropriate examination of conscience. Help students recognize root sins and identify how to address them. For the teacher's background: http://www.totustuus.com/overcome.htm
Formula for the sacrament of Penance: 1) The penitent enters and says, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been ___ since my last confession." 2) Then, the penitent states his/her sins. You may use a sentence starter: "My sins are..." or "During that time, I have..." 3) The priest gives advice and a penance. 4) The penitent makes an Act of Contrition. 5) The priest gives absolution.	X			Formula for the sacrament of Penance: 1) The penitent enters and says, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been ___ since my last confession." 2) Then, the penitent states his/her sins. You may use a sentence starter: "My sins are..." or "During that time, I have..." 3) The priest gives advice and a penance. 4) The penitent makes an Act of Contrition. 5) The priest gives absolution.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison Seventh Grade Emphasis

Closing: Priest: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good" Penitent: "His mercy endures forever." Priest: "The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace." Penitent: "Thanks be to God."				Closing: Priest: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good" Penitent: "His mercy endures forever." Priest: "The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace." Penitent: "Thanks be to God."
	X			Explain the seal of confession.
Students are given the opportunity to participate regularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (behind the screen or face to face) and recognize that regular reception of the sacrament helps us to be holy.	X			Students are given the opportunity to participate regularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (behind the screen or face to face) and recognize that regular reception of the sacrament helps us to be holy.
Encourage monthly reception of the sacrament of Penance.	X			Encourage monthly reception of the sacrament of Penance.
Students recognize the sacrament of reconciliation as one of freedom, where they meet the loving and merciful Jesus and walk out made new and clean.	X			Students recognize the sacrament of reconciliation as one of freedom, where they meet the loving and merciful Jesus and walk out made new and clean.
Confirmation				Confirmation
Confirmation is not necessary for salvation, like Baptism, but it perfects Baptism and strengthens those confirmed to make the road to heaven easier.	X			Confirmation is not necessary for salvation, like Baptism, but it perfects Baptism and strengthens those confirmed to make the road to heaven easier.
In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit renews His seven Gifts that, when lived out, produce the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.	X			In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit renews His seven Gifts that, when lived out, produce the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
Confirmation strengthens and completes the grace of Baptism		X		Confirmation strengthens, completes and perfects the grace of Baptism.
People may receive the sacrament of Confirmation only once because it marks their soul with a sacramental character, and gives them a greater share in the priesthood of Christ (which is different from the priesthood we see in Holy Orders).	X			People may receive the sacrament of Confirmation only once because it marks their soul with a sacramental character, and gives them a greater share in the priesthood of Christ (which is different from the priesthood we see in Holy Orders).
Effects of Confirmation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More closely united to Christ and the Church - Strengthen the gifts of the Holy Spirit - Completes Baptismal graces 	X			Effects of Confirmation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More closely united to Christ and the Church - Strengthen the gifts of the Holy Spirit - Completes Baptismal graces

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gives the strength, power, and responsibility to spread the Good News in word and deed (help others know, love, and serve God). - Gives all graces necessary to save soul 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gives the strength, power, and responsibility to spread the Good News in word and deed (help others know, love, and serve God). - Gives all graces necessary to save soul
Confirmation gives the baptized the duty to study the Bible and teachings of the Church, to pray, and to serve the mission of the Church.	X			Confirmation gives the baptized the duty to study the Bible and teachings of the Church, to pray, and to serve the mission of the Church.
Confirmation makes the baptized soldiers of Christ, with the duty to defend the Church against persecution, and their souls against harm from the world, the flesh, and the devil.	X			Confirmation makes the baptized soldiers of Christ, with the duty to defend the Church against persecution, and their souls against harm from the world, the flesh, and the devil.
		X		Form and Matter of Confirmation: anointing with Chrism, laying on of hands and the words of the Bishop (or his designee)
Marriage				Marriage
		X		The ministers of the sacrament of marriage are the spouses, by making their marriage vows.
Marriage is a covenant between a man, woman, and God, where they promise to love each other and be faithful to God's plan for their family.		X		For the sacrament of marriage, you need: baptized man and woman, free choice, intention and ability to fulfil the requirements of marriage, and openness to children.
		X		A couple must intend to enter marriage as a permanent, life-giving union, where they are faithful to each other and open to the procreation of children.
		X		The purpose of marriage is the good of the spouses and procreation/upbringing of children.
		X		Marriage can only end if one of the spouses dies.
		X		Marriage reflects the relationship between Jesus and His Bride, the Church.
		X		The effects of the Sacrament: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receive grace to perfect the couple's love and strengthen their unity. - Receive grace to become a saint by loving each other and welcoming/raising their children

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

				- Receive grace to love each other like Christ loves the Church.
	X			A marriage is preserved by a spirit of love, service, and sacrifice on the part of each spouse, imitating Jesus loving the Church.
God's plan for marriage is that the love between husband and wife is permanent, faithful, open to children, and free. Each person should be helping the other grow in love of God and neighbor.	X			God's plan for marriage is that the love between husband and wife is permanent, faithful, open to children, and free. Each person should be helping the other grow in love of God and neighbor.
	X			Jesus made Marriage a sacrament at the wedding feast of Cana and by his teaching on marriage.
	X			Family is the core unit of society.
		X		Matrimony is a serious commitment because it is for life, because it involves bringing new life into the world, and because spouses are responsibly for each other and for their children, especially, to help them get to Heaven.
		X		Catholics are required to be married in the Catholic Church, unless they receive a dispensation from the Bishop.
		X		The Church recognizes that nothing can break a marriage, so she does not recognize remarriage after a civil divorce, unless the person received an annulment (a Church statement that shows there never was a marriage because something essential was missing when the couple exchanged vows).
Holy Orders				Holy Orders
All people share in Jesus' priestly mission and can offer him a sacrifice of praise, but those who receive the sacrament of Holy Orders receive a special sacred power to use to serve God's people.	X			All people share in Jesus' priestly mission and can offer him a sacrifice of praise, but those who receive the sacrament of Holy Orders receive a special sacred power to use to serve God's people.
		X		Form and matter of Holy Orders: Anointing with Chrism, solemn prayer of Consecration by the bishop.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

		X		The three levels of Ordination are deacon, priest, and bishop.
Effects of the Sacrament of Holy Orders: Configured to Christ to lead the Church to holiness by teaching, sanctifying, and shepherding God’s flock.		X		Effects of Holy Orders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enables the priest to act as a representative of Christ, Head of the Church, in his office as priest, prophet, and king - Leaves an indelible spiritual character on the soul - Confers grace to guide and defend the Church with strength and prudence as a father and pastor.
A priest must be male because he stands in the person of Jesus Christ, who is the Bridegroom and Head of the Body, the Church, and he represents God the Father.	X			A priest must be male because he stands in the person of Jesus Christ, who is the Bridegroom and Head of the Body, the Church, and he represents God the Father.
By his ordination, the priest is the <i>alter Christus</i> , or “other Christ.” The priest acts “in persona Christi,” which means that he acts in the person of Christ.	X			By his ordination, the priest is the <i>alter Christus</i> , or “other Christ.” The priest acts “in persona Christi,” which means that he acts in the person of Christ.
Holy Orders puts a special mark on a man’s soul (c.f. “You are a priest forever, according to the line of Melchizedek.”), so Holy Orders can only be received once.	X			Holy Orders puts a special mark on a man’s soul (c.f. “You are a priest forever, according to the line of Melchizedek.”), so Holy Orders can only be received once.
		X		Priests are chosen to lead the Church by teaching, sanctifying, and shepherding God’s people.
		X		No man has the right to be ordained, but they respond to God’s call, relying on grace, and meet the requirements of the Church.
		X		In the Roman Rite, priests carry out their ministry as celibates (they do not get married or have a family of their own). They do this so that their love for Jesus and his Church can be even stronger and so that they can serve the Church wholeheartedly.
		X		Celibacy is a special call. By God’s grace and by practicing the virtue of chastity, priests live joyful and loving lives taking care of God’s people.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

		X		Bishops have the fullness of Holy Orders, so they are successors of the Apostles and the visible leaders of a Diocese.
		X		Recognize that priests are ordained to be co-workers with the Bishop, to work with them to carry on the Apostle’s job of taking care of the Church.
		X		Describe the ordinary formation of a diocesan priest.
		X		When a man is ordained, he receives an increase of grace, a sacramental character which gives him a greater share in the Priesthood of Jesus Christ, and power for sanctifying and governing the Church.
		X		Permanent deacons do not share in the ministerial priesthood, but by their ordination, the Bishop authorizes them to perform a ministry of service.
		X		Permanent Deacons may be married when they are ordained. However, if their wife dies after ordination, they may not be remarried.
		X		Monsignor, Archbishop, and Cardinal are titles of honor to recognize the special role or service of a priest or bishop.
		X		St. John Vianney is the patron saint of priests.
		X		Jesus told us to ask for “laborers for his Harvest,” and so taught us to pray for priests.
Anointing of the Sick				Anointing of the Sick
		X		Only priests or bishops can administer the Sacrament of Anointing.
Effects of Anointing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More closely uniting the person to Jesus in his/her suffering. - Strength, peace, and courage to endure sufferings in a Christian way - Forgiveness of sins - Preparation for heaven 	X			Effects of Anointing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More closely uniting the person to Jesus in his/her suffering. - Strength, peace, and courage to endure sufferings in a Christian way - Forgiveness of sins - Preparation for heaven

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

- Can restore physical health, if it is good for the person's soul.				- Can restore physical health, if it is good for the person's soul.	
In the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, the priest prays over the person and anoints their head and hands with the oil of the sick.	X			In the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, the priest prays over the person and anoints their head and hands with the oil of the sick.	
		X		Holy Eucharist is called viaticum when given to Catholics as they draw very close to death in order to strengthen them for the final struggle and their journey to the Father.	
		X		The Sacrament of the Sick was instituted by Christ when He sent the disciples to lay hands on the sick and pray for healing in His name (cf. Mark 6:12).	
		X		James wrote about the sacrament in James 5:13-15.	
		X		Any Catholic, who has attained the age of reason and who is seriously ill, may receive the Sacrament of Anointing.	
		X		The sacrament of Anointing can be received more than once.	
Sacramentals			Sacramentals		
A sacramental is a holy and sacred sign that bears a resemblance to the sacraments. Sacramentals help enhance one's spiritual life.	X			A sacramental is a holy and sacred sign that bears a resemblance to the sacraments. Sacramentals help strengthen faith and express love to God.	
Explain the difference between a sacrament and sacramental.					
Exhibit proper use of crucifixes, statues, rosary, Bible, candles, Holy Water, blessings, metals of saints, holy images.	X			Exhibit proper use of sacramentals.	
Liturgical Life			Liturgical Life		
Liturgy is the public worship of the Church. It is the celebration of the Christ's work to accomplish our salvation.	X			Liturgy is the public worship of the Church. It is the celebration of the Christ's work to accomplish our salvation.	
The Liturgy is made up of the Mass, Sacraments, and the Liturgy of the Hours.	X			The Liturgy is made up of the Mass, Sacraments, and the Liturgy of the Hours.	
Explain that all forms of liturgy are the actions of the Holy Spirit intending to make us holy.	X			Explain that all forms of liturgy are the actions of the Holy Spirit intending to make us holy.	
Liturgical Calendar			Liturgical Calendar		

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

		X		Recognize that the Liturgical year begins with the First Sunday of Advent and ends with the Solemnity of Christ the King.
<p>Identify and observe/participate in the following seasons of the Liturgical year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Advent</i>: preparation for Jesus coming in our daily lives, at the end of time, and at Christmas - Christmas: Season to celebrate Jesus coming to Earth, fully God and fully man, and recognizing that god fulfilled his promise of a Messiah. - Lent: preparation for commemorating Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension. We have a special focus on repentance at this time. - Easter: Season to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. - Ordinary Time: a time of growth where we focus on the teachings and life of Jesus during his public ministry. (Note: Ordinary comes from the Latin, "ordinal" or counted. It does not mean "boring" or "nothing special going on here".) 	X			<p>Identify and observe/participate in the following seasons of the Liturgical year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advent: preparation for Jesus coming in our daily lives, at the end of time, and at Christmas - Christmas: Season to celebrate Jesus coming to Earth, fully God and fully man, and recognizing that god fulfilled his promise of a Messiah. - Lent: preparation for commemorating the Paschal Mystery - Easter: Season to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. - Ordinary Time: a time of growth where we focus on the teachings and life of Jesus during his public ministry. (Note: Ordinary comes from the Latin, "ordinal" or counted. It does not mean "boring" or "nothing special going on here".)
		X		Identify prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as important traditions for entering into Lent. Recognize Biblical examples of encouragement in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.
<p>Identify and embrace particular ways to strengthen positive moral habits of prayer and sacrifice during the seasons of Lent and Advent, including receiving the Sacrament of Penance. Link Old Testament and Early Christian practices to their modern day counterparts.</p>	X			<p>Identify and embrace particular ways to strengthen positive moral habits of prayer and sacrifice during the seasons of Lent and Advent, including receiving the Sacrament of Penance. Link Old Testament and Early Christian practices to their modern day counterparts.</p>
<p>Recognize that the seasons of the Church year are celebrations in the life of Jesus, Mary, and the saints.</p>	X			<p>Recognize that the seasons of the Church year are celebrations in the life of Jesus, Mary, and the saints.</p>
<p>Connect symbols of Advent to the persons and events in Scripture which they represent.</p>	X			<p>Connect symbols of Advent to the persons and events in Scripture which they represent.</p>

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

		X		Recognize that the Church's tradition of Advent consists of waiting and longing for the Second Coming of Jesus by remembering his First Coming at Christmas.
Pray the Liturgy of the Hours.	X			Pray the Liturgy of the Hours.
Recognize that we honor Mary and show our love for her especially during the months of October and May.	X			Recognize that we honor Mary and show our love for her especially during the months of October and May.
Recognize the appropriate liturgical colors for liturgical celebrations. Explain the significance of these colors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lent and Advent – purple - Christmas/Easter– white - Ordinary time – green - Pentecost/Palm Sunday / Good Friday– red - Most saints: white - Saints who were martyrs: red 				
Palm Sunday is our celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.				
	X			The Paschal Mystery is the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus.
The Easter (Paschal) Triduum is the celebration of the three days in honor of the Paschal Mystery. The events of the Paschal Triduum are: The Last Supper, Jesus' suffering, death and burial, and the Resurrection.	X			The Easter (Paschal) Triduum is the celebration of the three days in honor of the Paschal Mystery. The events of the Paschal Triduum are: The Last Supper, Jesus' suffering, death and burial, and the Resurrection.
The Paschal Triduum, celebrated Holy Thursday through Evening Prayer on the Easter Vigil, is the most sacred time of the Liturgical Year.	X			The Paschal Triduum, celebrated Holy Thursday through Evening Prayer on the Easter Vigil, is the most sacred time of the Liturgical Year.
On Holy Thursday, Jesus celebrated the Last Supper, prayed in the Garden and was arrested.	X			On Holy Thursday, Jesus celebrated the Last Supper, prayed in the Garden and was arrested.
On Good Friday, Jesus was put on trial, was crucified, died, and was buried.	X			On Good Friday, Jesus was put on trial, was crucified, died, and was buried.
Be introduced to liturgical celebrations of Holy Week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chrism Mass - Mass on Holy Thursday, adoration to follow. - Good Friday services (Veneration of the Cross) 	X			Be introduced to liturgical celebrations of Holy Week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chrism Mass - Mass on Holy Thursday, adoration to follow. - Good Friday services (Veneration of the Cross)

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tenebrae - Easter Vigil Mass - Easter Day Mass 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tenebrae - Easter Vigil Mass - Easter Day Mass
<p>Explain what happened at the Last Supper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the Last Supper Jesus changed the Jewish Passover into the Mass. - Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper when he said, “Do this in memory of me.” - Jesus instituted the priesthood. - Discuss the Last Supper discourses from John. 	X			<p>Explain what happened at the Last Supper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the Last Supper Jesus changed the Jewish Passover into the Mass. - Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper when he said, “Do this in memory of me.” - Jesus instituted the priesthood. - Discuss the Last Supper discourses from John.
<p>Explain the Resurrection and its importance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An actual historical event with historical evidence. - The foundation of our faith. - Proof that Jesus is God and that he overcame evil and death and offers us the new life that he won for us on the Cross. 	X			<p>Explain the Resurrection and its importance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An actual historical event with historical evidence. - The foundation of our faith. - Proof that Jesus is God and that he overcame evil and death and offers us the new life that he won for us on the Cross.
<p>Explain the meaning of each of the following symbols associated with Easter: Paschal Candle, lamb, Easter lily, etc.</p>	X			<p>Explain the meaning of each of the following symbols associated with Easter: Paschal Candle, lamb, Easter lily, etc.</p>
<p>Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter.</p>	X			<p>Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter.</p>
<p>Ascension Thursday is the day when Jesus went back to heaven. He is in heaven and is present to us in the Eucharist. Explain that the Ascension teaches us that we will get our bodies back at the end of time.</p>	X			<p>At the Ascension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus went back to heaven, body and soul. - Jesus begins to reign as King in heaven. - Jesus gives the Great Commission to the Apostles <p>The Ascension teaches us that we will get our bodies back at the end of time.</p>
<p>The Ascension marks the time when Jesus begins to reign as King in Heaven.</p>	X			
<p>Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50 days after Easter - Holy Spirit descended on Mary and the Apostles - Holy Spirit gave the Church its saving mission in the world <p>This is why Pentecost is called the “birthday of the Church”</p>	X			<p>Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50 days after Easter - Holy Spirit descended on Mary and the Apostles - Holy Spirit gave the Church its saving mission in the world.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The apostles spoke in different languages, bringing the Gospel to all people, not just the Jewish people. <p>This is why Pentecost is called the “birthday of the Church”</p>
<p>Define Holy Days of Obligation as special days, other than Sundays, when we are obliged to come together to worship God at Mass, and are days of rest. Memorize the dates of Holy Days of Obligation and explain how their meaning impacts daily life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1) - Easter (changes every year) - Ascension (40 days after Easter) - Assumption (Aug 15) - All Saints Day (Nov 1) - Immaculate Conception (Dec 8) - Christmas (Dec 25) 	X			<p>Define Holy Days of Obligation as special days, other than Sundays, when we are obliged to come together to worship God at Mass, and are days of rest. Memorize the dates of Holy Days of Obligation and explain how their meaning impacts daily life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1) - Easter (changes every year) - Ascension (40 days after Easter) - Assumption (Aug 15) - All Saints Day (Nov 1) - Immaculate Conception (Dec 8) - Christmas (Dec 25)
<p>Explain reverent and faithful observation of Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.</p> <p>http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s2c1a3.htm Paragraph 2189 and following.</p>	X			<p>Explain reverent and faithful observation of Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.</p> <p>http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s2c1a3.htm Paragraph 2189 and following.</p>
<p>Recognize and understand the significance of feast days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feasts of the Apostles - Christ the King - Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart - Holy Family - Corpus Christi - Trinity Sunday - Feast of Guardian Angels - Feast of Archangels - Feasts of the patron of the school and neighboring parishes - Review and celebrate previous feasts 		X		<p>Recognize and understand the significance of feast days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and celebrate previous feasts - Encourage students to develop devotion to certain feasts that support their own spiritual life.
Eucharistic Liturgy			Eucharistic Liturgy	

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

		X		Mass is our greatest prayer, and weekly participation in Sunday Mass is the foundation of Catholic life, prayer, and spirituality.
Going to Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation is a serious responsibility for all Catholics.		X		Explain why going to Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation is a serious responsibility for all Catholics.
		X		At Mass, Jesus is both the priest and the offering (victim).
The Holy Eucharist, who is Jesus, is the center of the Catholic faith.	X			The Holy Eucharist, who is Jesus, is the center of the Catholic faith.
At Mass, we enter into the worship of heaven; the saints and angels are present, too.		X		At Mass, Jesus offers Himself to the Father and unites the members of the Church on earth, in purgatory, and in heaven.
Compare the Mass with the symbolic Jewish Passover meal. Understand that the Last Supper was a celebration of Passover and the first Mass.	X			Compare the Mass with the symbolic Jewish Passover meal. Understand that the Last Supper was a celebration of Passover and the first Mass.
Jesus' sacrifice of Himself is greater than any or all of the Old Testament sacrifices.				
Jesus offered Himself as a bloody sacrifice on the Cross on Good Friday, and He offers Himself to the Father in an un-bloody manner, like he did at the Last Supper, at every Mass.		X		Mass is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through the priest celebrating the Mass. Jesus makes his sacrifice on the Cross present in an un-bloody way and renews his graces to us. Jesus does not "re-sacrifice" himself at Mass; he makes his one sacrifice present again in the signs and symbols of the Mass.
Describe essential elements of the liturgy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductory Rites - Liturgy of the Word - Liturgy of the Eucharist - Concluding Rites 	X			Describe essential elements of the liturgy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductory Rites - Liturgy of the Word - Liturgy of the Eucharist - Concluding Rites
The Introductory Rites include the Confiteor (time to show sorrow for sin and ask God for forgiveness), Gloria (song of praise to the Holy Trinity), and Opening prayer.	X			The Introductory Rites include the Confiteor (time to show sorrow for sin and ask God for forgiveness), Gloria (song of praise to the Holy Trinity), and Opening prayer.
The Liturgy of the Word includes the Bible readings, a homily, the Creed, and the Prayers of the Faithful.	X			The Liturgy of the Word includes the Bible readings, a homily, the Creed, and the Prayers of the Faithful.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

		X		The Lectionary is the official book of Scripture readings, arranged in a three year cycle, and used during the Liturgy of the Word.
		X		The Sacramentary is the official book of prayers and directives for celebrating the Mass.
Recognize that the Scriptures we read at Mass are to educate and inspire the whole People of God.	X			Recognize that the Scriptures we read at Mass are to educate and inspire the whole People of God.
Listening to the Scriptures reverently allows us to trace the life of Christ through Sunday readings and helps us be more like Christ.	X			Listening to the Scriptures reverently allows us to follow the life of Christ through Sunday readings and helps us be more like Christ.
The Liturgy of the Eucharist includes the Offertory, the Consecration, Our Father, and Holy Communion.	X			The Liturgy of the Eucharist includes the Offertory, the Consecration, Our Father, and Holy Communion.
Understand the meaning of the word Transubstantiation: the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, of Jesus. There is no more bread or wine, only Jesus.	X			Understand the meaning of the word Transubstantiation: the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, of Jesus. There is no more bread or wine, only Jesus.
At Consecration (When the priest says “this is my Body... Blood”), the priest says Jesus’s words from the Last Supper and with God’s power, changes bread and wine into Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.	X			At Consecration (When the priest says “this is my Body... Blood”), the priest says Jesus’s words from the Last Supper and with God’s power, changes bread and wine into Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.
The concluding rites include the prayer after communion, the concluding prayer, the blessing, and the dismissal.	X			The concluding rites include the prayer after communion, the concluding prayer, the blessing, and the dismissal.
Jesus is completely present in each of the Eucharistic species (even a broken host or a crumb is completely Jesus).	X			Jesus is completely present in each of the Eucharistic species (even a broken host or a crumb is completely Jesus).
The Holy Eucharist is still Jesus, even after Mass, when the host is reserved in the Tabernacle.				
The Holy Eucharist is one way that Jesus keeps his promise to “be with you even until the ends of the earth.”				
Active participation at Mass means that we participate by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prayers - Hymns - Psalms 		X		Active participation at Mass means that we participate by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prayers - Hymns - Psalms

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responses - Inner self-offering with Christ to the Father 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responses - Inner self-offering with Christ to the Father - Offering our intentions with Jesus in the Mass - Offering thanks and praise to the Father through, with, and in Jesus.
At every Mass, we participate in Jesus' offering to the Father. We can offer our own intentions in union with Jesus' offering.	X			At every Mass, we participate in Jesus' offering to the Father. We can offer our own intentions in union with Jesus' offering.
The Mass is offered for those who are in purgatory so that they can enter into heaven more quickly.	X			The Mass is offered for those who are in purgatory so that they can enter into heaven more quickly.
		X		Recognize that a funeral Mass is a special liturgy of intercession, blessing, and farewell to the deceased Christian. Recognize the power of a funeral Mass to bless the deceased person and console family and friends.
<p>The effects of receiving Holy Communion are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nourishes us with the Body and Blood of Christ - Unites us more deeply with Christ and His Church - Transforms us and strengthens us to love and serve one another - Takes away venial sin - Strengthens us against mortal sin 	X			<p>The effects of receiving Holy Communion are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nourishes us with the Body and Blood of Christ - Unites us more deeply with Christ and His Church - Transforms us and strengthens us to love and serve one another - Takes away venial sin - Strengthens us against mortal sin
Give examples of how the Eucharist nourishes and strengthens us to follow Jesus.	X			Give examples of how the Eucharist nourishes and strengthens us to follow Jesus.
<p>We may receive the Eucharist if we are properly prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catholic - free from mortal sin - fasted for an hour before Holy Communion (water and medicine do not break the fast) - have the right intention of being united to Jesus. <p>When we do, we become more like Him.</p>	X			<p>We may receive the Eucharist if we are properly prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catholic - free from mortal sin - fasted for an hour before Holy Communion (water and medicine do not break the fast) - have the right intention of being united to Jesus. <p>When we do, we become more like Him.</p>
If a person commits a mortal sin, they need to make a good confession before receiving Holy Communion.	X			If a person commits a mortal sin, they need to make a good confession before receiving Holy Communion.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Explain why the Church asks us to fast before Holy Communion.				
Practice and understand what people do when they receive Jesus in Holy Communion (forming the intention of worshipping God at mass, being properly prepared, making a gesture of reverence before reception, proper way to receive on the tongue and in the hand).		X		Understand and consistently demonstrate what people do when they reverently receive Jesus in Holy Communion (forming the intention of worshipping God at mass, being properly prepared, making a gesture of reverence before reception, proper way to receive on the tongue and in the hand).
Review the importance of frequent, worthy, and reverential reception of Holy Communion.		X		Review the importance of frequent, worthy, and reverential reception of Holy Communion.
Encourage children to offer themselves to the Father with Jesus at the sacrifice of the Mass.	X			Encourage children to offer themselves to the Father with Jesus at the sacrifice of the Mass.
Jesus, as God, is present everywhere, but when we talk about the Real Presence we refer to the fact that Jesus is totally present, fully God and fully man.	X			Jesus, as God, is present everywhere, but when we talk about the Real Presence we refer to the fact that Jesus is totally present, fully God and fully man.
Teach the proper way to participate in liturgical planning (plan and read intercessory prayers, act as lector, cantor, server, gift bearers, ushers, etc), whenever this begins at school or parish.		X		Begin to take a leadership role in liturgical planning (plan and read intercessory prayers, act as lector, cantor, server, gift bearers, ushers, etc.) within the school.
Liturgical Gestures and Para-Liturgical Celebrations		Liturgical Gestures and Para-Liturgical Celebrations		
Appropriately participate in liturgy; exhibit appropriate church behavior (reverence in heart and respect in actions and appearance).	X			Appropriately participate in liturgy; exhibit appropriate church behavior (reverence in heart and respect in actions and appearance).
		X		Memorize all prayer responses and proper gestures for Mass so as to reverently participate.
		X		Discuss why we dress up and take special care of our appearance for Mass.
Foster devotion to the Blessed Sacrament through visits to Jesus in the Tabernacle and through experiences of Adoration.	X			Foster devotion to the Blessed Sacrament through visits to Jesus in the Tabernacle and through experiences of Adoration.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament includes praying in front of the Tabernacle, during Exposition, and at Benediction. The grace from Mass is extended to those who worship and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.	X			Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament includes praying in front of the Tabernacle, during Exposition, and at Benediction. The grace from Mass is extended to those who worship and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
Distinguish between liturgical and para-liturgical celebrations.				
Explain how liturgical gestures are prayers of our bodies and signify attitudes of our heart. (sign of the cross, use Holy Water entering a church, genuflect, bow, kneel, striking chest during Confiteor, making a cross on forehead, lips, and heart before the gospel, bowing or genuflecting when we say 'and became man' during the creed, appropriate sign of peace, singing)	X			Explain how liturgical gestures are prayers of our bodies and signify attitudes of our heart. (sign of the cross, use Holy Water entering a church, genuflect, bow, kneel, striking chest during Confiteor, making a cross on forehead, lips, and heart before the gospel, bowing or genuflecting when we say 'and became man' during the creed, appropriate sign of peace, singing)
Identify that we use signs of reverence and liturgical gestures to respect God because he is present in the church in a special way.	X			Identify that we use signs of reverence and liturgical gestures to respect God because he is present in the church in a special way.
Understand the purpose of silence in Church. Exhibit quiet and reverent behavior in church.	X			Understand the purpose of silence in Church. Exhibit quiet and reverent behavior in church.

Religion Guidelines
Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Living in Freedom				Living in Freedom
Understand that morality is coming to recognize God’s loving call and responding in freedom.	X			Understand that morality is coming to recognize God’s loving call and responding in freedom.
Express and experience that true happiness comes from life with God and virtuous choices.	X			Express and experience that true happiness comes from life with God and virtuous choices.
Recognize that freedom and responsibility are essential parts of a balanced morality.	X			Recognize that freedom and responsibility are essential parts of a balanced morality.
Find similarities and differences between free will and freedom. http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s1c1a3.htm		X		Develop a Catholic understanding of joy, freedom, and free will.
Recognize conditions which would limit the knowledge, freedom, and choice necessary for a person to be responsible for his or her action.	X			Recognize conditions which would limit the knowledge, freedom, and choice necessary for a person to be responsible for his or her action.
Begin to identify object, intention, and circumstances as what defines the morality of an action. https://www.avemariapress.com/engagingfaith/2008/04/morality-of-human-acts/		X		Evaluate the morality of an action using object, intention, and circumstances. https://www.avemariapress.com/engagingfaith/2008/04/morality-of-human-acts/
God created us to know, love and serve Him, to love others like He does (and as we love ourselves), to respect all creation and to be happy with him forever in Heaven.	X			God created us to know, love and serve Him, to love others like He does (and as we love ourselves), to respect all creation and to be happy with him forever in Heaven.
God wants everyone in heaven, but he does not force us into heaven.	X			God wants everyone in heaven, but he does not force us into heaven.
Express ways to grow in response to the universal call to holiness. Begin to identify elements of what holiness looks like in their own life.	X			Express ways to grow in response to the universal call to holiness. Begin to identify elements of what holiness looks like in their own life.
God has called us to holiness before the foundation of the world and has a plan for us, our vocation.				
God gives us freedom to make right choices. We have responsibility for our choices and their consequences.	X			God gives us freedom to make right choices. We have responsibility for our choices and their consequences.
Recognize that God gave us the 10 commandments, Beatitudes, Jesus’ Law of Love, and precepts & Church	X			Recognize that God gave us the 10 commandments, Beatitudes, Jesus’ Law of Love, and precepts & Church

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

teachings as rules of behavior to help us be happy and holy, respecting the dignity of each person.				teachings as rules of behavior to help us be happy and holy, respecting the dignity of each person.
List the 10 commandments and apply them to daily life. The Examination of Conscience at the end of these guidelines may be a helpful starting place.	X			List the 10 commandments and apply them to daily life. The Examination of Conscience at the end of these guidelines may be a helpful starting place.
		X		Recognize that what we identify as right or wrong comes from respect of God and the dignity of each human person. Explain how each of the 10 Commandments upholds respect for God and the dignity of the human person.
Exhibit obedience properly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognize that obedience to someone in legitimate authority is obedience to Jesus - recognize that obedience to legitimate authority for Jesus' sake lets us participate in God's wisdom, even when we don't understand - Understand that obedience is in everything but sin. - Discuss the graces that come from obedience - Begin to develop an understanding that you can disagree, but still obey promptly, cheerfully, and completely and that this obedience unites us to Jesus and helps win grace for the world. - Understand that obedience is for adults (to rightful authority and to God) and children. 		X		Develop an intelligent, free, and strong exercise of obedience.
If an authority tells us to do something against God's law, they are not participating in God's authority and we should not follow their rules. (i.e. the government tells us we are not allowed to go to Mass on Sunday or we may kill someone).				
Discuss ways to live the beatitudes and how to look for the blessings associated with them.	X			Discuss ways to live the beatitudes and how to look for the blessings associated with them.
Compare and contrast the Beatitudes with the values of modern day society.	X			Compare and contrast the Beatitudes with the values of modern day society.
God always calls us to grow in love so that we can be closer to him. We call this ongoing conversion. It is God's grace at work				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

in us, where we cooperate with him to keep trying to stop doing things that get in the way of love and do more things to grow in love.				
God calls all people to ongoing conversion	X			God calls all people to ongoing conversion
Part of ongoing conversion is to share what you have learned from God in and through the Church with others.	X			Part of ongoing conversion is to share what you have learned from God in and through the Church with others.
Strengthen the practice of making a daily examination of conscience based on the 10 commandments and God's Law of Love.	X			Strengthen the practice of making a daily examination of conscience based on the 10 commandments and God's Law of Love.
Write a personal examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandants and the Beatitudes.	X			Write an examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandants and the Beatitudes.
Define conscience as the inner judgement of whether an action is right or wrong.	X			Define conscience as the inner judgement of whether an action is right or wrong.
Every Christian has a duty to form their conscience, which is a never-ending practice.	X			Every Christian has a duty to form their conscience, which is a never-ending practice.
Forming our conscience means that we listen to what God tells us is right by listening to the Holy Spirit, Church teaching, and Bible.	X			Forming our conscience means that we listen to what God tells us is right by listening to the Holy Spirit, Church teaching, and Bible.
A well-formed conscience is one that matches reality, which God created and expresses to us. It is very important to have a well-formed conscience.	X			A well-formed conscience is one that matches reality, which God created and expresses to us. It is very important to have a well-formed conscience.
Every Christian is obliged to follow his or her conscience, formed by God in the Church.		X		Every Christian is obliged to continue to form his or her conscience for his/her lifetime and follow his or her conscience, formed by God in the Church.
Name the two great commandments, recognize that they summarize the 10 commandments and apply them to daily life. 1) Love the Lord, your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, and all your strength: Commandments 1-3 2) Love your neighbor as yourself: Commandments 4-10				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Begin to explain natural law. Identify elements of natural law in God's law, specifically the 10 Commandments.	X			Begin to explain natural law (the inner ability to know basic right from wrong that God put in everyone's heart when he created them). Identify elements of natural law in God's law, specifically the 10 Commandments.
Demonstrate loving actions.				
Explore age-appropriate ways to engage in the corporal works of mercy. Include everyday opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feed the hungry - Give drink to the thirsty - Shelter the homeless - Clothe the naked - Visit the sick - Visit the imprisoned - Bury the dead 	X			Explore age-appropriate ways to engage in the corporal works of mercy. Include everyday opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feed the hungry - Give drink to the thirsty - Shelter the homeless - Clothe the naked - Visit the sick - Visit the imprisoned - Bury the dead
Explain and explore age-appropriate ways to engage in the spiritual works of mercy. Include everyday opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council the doubtful - Instruct the ignorant - Admonish sinners - Comfort the afflicted - Forgive offenses - Bear wrongs patiently - Pray for the living and the dead 	X			Explain and explore age-appropriate ways to engage in the spiritual works of mercy. Include everyday opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council the doubtful - Instruct the ignorant - Admonish sinners - Comfort the afflicted - Forgive offenses - Bear wrongs patiently - Pray for the living and the dead
Use the two great commandments to judge the actions of persons in Bible stories, films, TV programs, stories, and songs.				
Jesus is the model for how to live as God's holy Children. Christians try to think, speak, and act like Jesus, doing good and avoiding evil.				
Keeping God's commandments and living a life of beatitude are the fundamental signs of our love for God and neighbor.				
Express the importance of respect and love in building strong friendships and acquaintances.				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Recognize and value the different gifts and talents of others.				
Jesus gives us both the command to forgive others, and also the grace and strength to forgive those who have sinned against us.				
Recognize that the good of each individual is related to the common good.				
We need the Holy Spirit's help to do good and avoid evil. We cannot do this on our own.				
Grace is necessary for salvation.				
Grace is a free, undeserved gift from God. It helps us share in God's life and gives us the strength do the right thing. We must accept grace freely. God does not force us to accept grace.				
Grace is the means to holiness. There are two kinds of grace. Both are needed to be holy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sanctifying grace: God's life in our soul, which we receive in Baptism - Actual grace: the help to do God's will, to choose what is right and avoid what is evil, received by asking in prayer and in the sacraments 				
Recognize the power and action of actual grace. Identify times when we need actual grace. Develop a habit of asking for actual grace in times of temptation and thanking God for grace given.				
To be disposed for grace, we pray, participate in the Sacraments, meditate on Scripture, and rely on the intercession of the saints and those on earth and in purgatory.	X			To be disposed for grace, we pray, participate in the Sacraments, meditate on Scripture, and rely on the intercession of the saints and those on earth and in purgatory.
Virtues are strong and firm dispositions to do what is good.		X		Virtues are strong and firm dispositions to do what is good. They are the way that we imitate Jesus and become more united to him.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

We grow in virtue by doing what is right, even when it is hard, and by asking for God's grace.	X			We grow in virtue by doing what is right, even when it is hard, and by asking for God's grace.
		X		We were designed by God in His image. The more we do good (grow in virtue), the more authentically human and joyful we are.
Explain and give examples of the three supernatural/theological (God-given) virtues. They are given at Baptism and strengthened through the Eucharist and Confirmation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faith: believing in everything that God reveals because He can neither deceive nor be deceived. - Hope: trusting that God loves us and will give us all the grace we need to be holy and get to Heaven. - Charity: loving God above all else and loving our neighbors as ourselves for the love of God. 	X		Explain and give examples of the three supernatural/theological (God-given) virtues. They are given at Baptism and strengthened through the Eucharist and Confirmation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faith: believing in everything that God reveals because He can neither deceive nor be deceived. - Hope: trusting that God loves us and will give us all the grace we need to be holy and get to Heaven. - Charity: loving God above all else and loving our neighbors as ourselves for the love of God. 	
Explain and apply the 4 cardinal virtues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Justice – giving each person and God what is their due - Prudence – judge correctly what is right or wrong in a given circumstance - Temperance – helps us be balanced in our desire for and use of created goods. - Fortitude – helps us do the right thing, even when it is difficult or boring. 	X			Explain and apply the 4 cardinal virtues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Justice – giving each person and God what is their due - Prudence – judge correctly what is right or wrong in a given circumstance - Temperance – helps us be balanced in our desire for and use of created goods. - Fortitude – helps us do the right thing, even when it is difficult or boring.
		X		Identify the seven capital sins (deadly sins) as pride, covetousness (avarice), envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth. Identify the theological/cardinal virtue which combats each.
Recognize the steps for good decision-making and develop a procedure for making good moral choices.		X		Recognize the steps for good decision-making and practice a procedure for making good moral choices.
		X		Continue to develop the habit of calling upon the Holy Spirit, our Guardian Angel, and the saints to help us know what is right and do it. Develop a habit of thanking them when we see their help in our lives.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

List the seven gifts and 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit. Explain the meaning of each. Understand that when we exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are acting the way that God does. We can't exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit without His grace living in us.	X			List the seven gifts and 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit. Explain the meaning of each. Understand that when we exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are acting the way that God does. We can't exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit without His grace living in us.
Discuss how the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit help us lead a holy life.		X		Discuss how the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit help us lead a holy life and bring joy.
Obedience to God's Will is part of believing in God.				
Part of Christian hope is sharing in the Cross of Christ and looking forward to heaven.	X			Part of Christian hope is sharing in the Cross of Christ and looking forward to heaven.
God does not ever stop loving us, even when we sin.	X			God does not ever stop loving us, even when we sin.
There is no sin too big for God to forgive; God's love is always greater than any evil.	X			There is no sin too big for God to forgive; God's love is always greater than any evil.
God hates sin, but loves and is patient with sinners. We should also hate sin but be patient with people.				
Discuss the communal aspects of sin.	X	X		Discuss the effects of sin on the individual, his or her community, and the society.
Recognize the need for reconciliation with the community.	X			Recognize the need for reconciliation with the community.
		X		Recognize that concupiscence is a desire that makes us vulnerable to temptation and sin.
Recognize that a temptation is an invitation to do something wrong.	X			Recognize that a temptation is an invitation to do something wrong.
Temptation is a struggle for everyone, but God is always present to help us and understands what we are going through.	X			Temptation is a struggle for everyone, but God is always present to help us and understands what we are going through.
Recognize that we never have to sin. There is never a time when temptation must win. By relying on God's grace and doing our best, it is always possible to do the right thing.	X			Recognize that we never have to sin. There is never a time when temptation must win. By relying on God's grace and doing our best, it is always possible to do the right thing.
Develop the habit of prayer in times of temptation.	X			Develop the habit of prayer in times of temptation.
Begin to recognize times, places, and people around whom we are often tempted and create a plan for avoiding temptation/staying close to God.	X			Begin to recognize times, places, and people around whom we are often tempted and create a plan for avoiding temptation/staying close to God.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

We must avoid the places, people, and things (including media) that we know or have a pretty good idea may lead us to sin.	X			We must avoid the places, people, and things (including media) that we know or have a pretty good idea may lead us to sin.
		X		Prayer, God’s grace, self-discipline, and the intercession of the saints help us overcome temptation.
Habits of selfishness and moral weakness lead to sin. The fix is to work on building virtue.	X			Habits of selfishness and moral weakness lead to sin. The fix is to work on building virtue.
Sin is choosing to do something wrong by refusing to love God and others, and to obey God’s Commandments. It displeases God and it hurts us, others, and our relationship with God and others.	X			Sin is choosing to do something wrong by refusing to love God and others, and to obey God’s Commandments. It displeases God and it hurts us, others, and our relationship with God and others.
Sin is choosing to disobey God by thinking bad things on purpose (in thought), doing bad things on purpose (in deed by commission), or choosing not to do good things that you know you should (in deed, by omission).	X			Sin is choosing to disobey God by thinking bad things on purpose (in thought), doing bad things on purpose (in deed by commission), or choosing not to do good things that you know you should (in deed, by omission).
Understand the difference between a sin, a temptation, an accident and a mistake.	X			Understand the difference between a sin, a temptation, an accident and a mistake.
Recognize that positive or negative feelings (passions) are not good or bad in themselves.	X			Recognize that positive or negative feelings (passions) are not good or bad in themselves.
Develop habits of recognizing emotions, asking God to help direct them, and then choosing right actions.	X			Develop habits of recognizing emotions, asking God to help direct them, and then choosing right actions.
Recognize that there are two kinds of sins: - Venial (less serious) sins - Mortal (very serious) sins		X		Explain the difference between original sin, personal sin, and social sin.
Venial sins harm our relationship with God, but do not destroy the life of grace in our soul. If we are sorry, they can be forgiven by receiving the Eucharist and in the Sacrament of Penance.				
Mortal sin is a serious sin. - If a person commits a mortal sin, he/she should go to confession as soon as possible.	X			Explain venial and mortal sin and the conditions for each.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is the only way to lose/destroy sanctifying grace (God's life in our souls) - Ordinarily, it is only forgiven by making a good confession. <p>If a person commits a mortal sin, he or must make a good Confession before receiving Holy Communion.</p>				
<p>The three conditions for a mortal sin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The bad thing must be something serious in itself. - The person must know that the sin is serious when they chose to do the sin. - The person must freely choose to do it anyway. <p>If a sin is missing at least one of these conditions, then it is a venial sin.</p>				
Because sin hurts our relationship with God and with others, we need reconciliation with God and with the community.	X			Because sin hurts our relationship with God and with others, we need reconciliation with God and with the community.
Cultivate the ability to forgive and ask forgiveness by following Jesus' words and example.	X			Cultivate the ability to forgive and ask forgiveness by following Jesus' words and example.
After sinning, we can always try again. Going to Confession absolves our sins, reconciles us to the community, and gives us the strength to try again.	X			After sinning, we can always try again. Going to Confession absolves our sins, reconciles us to the community, and gives us the strength to try again.
Recognize that the best way to avoid sin and try again after sinning is to focus on working with the Holy Spirit on growing in the virtues rather than focusing on staying away from sin.	X			Recognize that the best way to avoid sin and try again after sinning is to focus on working with the Holy Spirit on growing in the virtues rather than focusing on staying away from sin.
Understand that we love God and care about pleasing him because He loved us first.	X			Understand that we love God and care about pleasing him because He loved us first.
Recognize that God and his goodness always triumphs over evil and sin.	X			Recognize that God and his goodness always triumphs over evil and sin.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Prayer		Prayer	
Theology of prayer		Theology of prayer	
Recognize the power of prayer in our daily lives, as well as the power of prayer in working toward peace and justice.	X		Recognize the power of prayer in our daily lives, as well as the power of prayer in working toward peace and justice.
Define prayer as a response to personally knowing God’s love and goodness. Prayer deepens our relationship with God.	X		Define prayer as a response to personally knowing God’s love and goodness. Prayer deepens our relationship with God.
Define prayer as coming into God’s presence and keeping company with God. Understand that God delights in keeping company with us.	X		Define prayer as coming into God’s presence and keeping company with God. Understand that God delights in keeping company with us.
		X	Recognize that prayer leads us to conversion and helps us form our consciences.
Wanting to pray or being asked to pray is an invitation from God to talk to him.	X		Wanting to pray or being asked to pray is an invitation from God to talk to him.
Identify and explain the forms of prayer: praise, thanksgiving, petition, and contrition.		X	Identify and explain the forms of prayer: praise, adoration, thanksgiving, petition, intercession, and contrition.
Discuss obstacles to prayer and ways to overcome them. Be sure to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of time (we make time for what is valuable; decide where you will make time for prayer). - Don’t know how to pray (start with some vocal prayers, listen to teachers or parents who show us ways to pray, like meditation, singing, contemplative prayer, etc.) - Distractions (Do what you can to create a distraction free environment, but realize that distractions are something that everyone deals with. Calmly pull your attention back to God.) - Dryness (keep praying, no matter what. If you are aware of some sin, confess it. If not, continue on, and know that God is doing a lot of work during your time of prayer, even if you can’t see it. Everyone also experiences dryness.) 	X		Discuss obstacles to prayer and ways to overcome them. Be sure to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of time (we make time for what is valuable; decide where you will make time for prayer). - Don’t know how to pray (start with some vocal prayers, listen to teachers or parents who show us ways to pray, like meditation, singing, contemplative prayer, etc.) - Distractions (Do what you can to create a distraction free environment, but realize that distractions are something that everyone deals with. Calmly pull your attention back to God.) - Dryness (keep praying, no matter what. If you are aware of some sin, confess it. If not, continue on, and know that God is doing a lot of work during your time of prayer, even if you can’t see it. Everyone also experiences dryness.)

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Discuss how clinging persistently to prayer helps us overcome difficulties.	X			Discuss how clinging persistently to prayer helps us overcome difficulties.
Encourage students to pray to know God's will for their life and their vocation.	X			Encourage students to pray to know God's will for their life and their vocation.
Attitudes and postures of prayer				Attitudes and postures of prayer
Encourage a daily time set aside for prayer, especially in the morning and evening.	X			Encourage a daily time set aside for prayer, especially in the morning and evening.
Recognize opportunities to pray during the day and during daily activities (e.g. thanking God for a beautiful day, asking God for help in a difficult situation, sharing a funny moment with God, etc.)	X			Recognize opportunities to pray during the day and during daily activities (e.g. thanking God for a beautiful day, asking God for help in a difficult situation, sharing a funny moment with God, etc.)
Recognize Jesus as a model of prayer and explore his prayer in the Scriptures.	X			Recognize Jesus as a model of prayer and explore his prayer in the Scriptures.
Describe Mary's faith and humility and recognize their role in forming her as a person of prayer. Understand Mary's role in helping us pray as she did.	X			Describe Mary's faith and humility and recognize their role in forming her as a person of prayer. Understand Mary's role in helping us pray as she did.
Explore the Psalms and note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That they were prayers that Jesus, Mary, and the saints before us liked to pray - That they are collection of hymns and prayers of the Jewish people - How to use the psalms as prayers - The categories of psalms, which can help us understand what they mean better - Places they are used in Catholic prayer and liturgy. 	X			Explore the Psalms and review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That they were prayers that Jesus, Mary, and the saints before us liked to pray - That they are collection of hymns and prayers of the Jewish people - How to use the psalms as prayers - The categories of psalms, which can help us understand what they mean better - Places they are used in Catholic prayer and liturgy.
Become familiar with the "Hear O Israel" in Deuteronomy 6.	X			Develop the habit of praying with the Scriptures and reading them daily.
Write prayers based on Old Testament Prayers (including psalms, prayers of Old Testament leaders, etc.)		X		Recognize the places in Scripture which work together to form the Our Father and Hail Mary.
Explore the elements of the Our Father and recognize it as Jesus' way of teaching us to pray.	X			Explore the elements of the Our Father and recognize it as Jesus' way of teaching us to pray.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Demonstrate reverence in prayer.	X			Demonstrate reverence in prayer.
The Holy Spirit helps us pray and teaches us to pray.	X			The Holy Spirit helps us pray and teaches us to pray.
When we pray to the saints, our Blessed Mother, and the angels, they intercede (or pray for) us. We can always ask them for help, especially in times of need or temptation.	X			When we pray to the saints, our Blessed Mother, and the angels, they intercede (or pray for) us. We can always ask them for help, especially in times of need or temptation.
Develop a friendship and devotion to the Holy Spirit and the saints. Special saintly devotion to: Mary, Joseph, patron saint and Guardian Angel.	X			Develop a friendship and devotion to the Holy Spirit and the saints. Special saintly devotion to: Mary, Joseph, patron saint and Guardian Angel.
Understand that devotion is a loving relationship. Talking to the saints and our guardian angel and offering sacrifices up as a way of showing our love and thanks are part of devotion. You don't always have to feel a special closeness (you probably will not always feel a special closeness) to a saint to have devotion. You have to choose to love them.	X			Understand that devotion is a loving relationship. Talking to the saints and our guardian angel and offering sacrifices up as a way of showing our love and thanks are part of devotion. You don't always have to feel a special closeness (you probably will not always feel a special closeness) to a saint to have devotion. You have to choose to love them.
Recognize that we only worship God. Our devotion to saints is a special love and friendship that brings us closer to God. God shares his love and joy with us through their friendship.	X			Recognize that we only worship God. Our devotion to saints is a special love and friendship that brings us closer to God. God shares his love and joy with us through their friendship.
Develop a personal plan of daily prayer. Possible topics to discuss while planning: http://lifeteen.com/blog/prayer/		X		Adapt and develop a personal plan of daily prayer and spiritual exercises. Possible topics to discuss while planning: http://lifeteen.com/blog/prayer/
Prayer is a way of life for Christians, according to Paul's admonition to "pray always."	X			Prayer is a way of life for Christians, according to Paul's admonition to "pray always."
Silence helps us pray, listen to God, and be close to God.	X			Silence helps us pray, listen to God, and be close to God.
The Catholic Church/chapel is the most sacred place for prayer because Jesus is present in the tabernacle.	X			The Catholic Church/chapel is the most sacred place for prayer because Jesus is present in the tabernacle.
Explore various ways to pray (eg. Reading, art, listening, and singing, meditation)	X			Explore various ways to pray (eg. Reading, art, listening, and singing, meditation)
Demonstrate ability to pray a novena, which is a prayer or prayers said over a period of nine days to God or to Mary or to one of the saints.	X			Demonstrate ability to pray a novena, which is a prayer or prayers said over a period of nine days to God or to Mary or to one of the saints.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Explain and practice spontaneous prayer and formal prayer. Understand similarities, differences, and importance of both.		X		Grow in the practice of spontaneous prayer and formal prayer. Understand similarities, differences, and importance of both.
Practice simply being in God's presence and keeping him company. Identify ways that God speaks to us and develop the capacity to listen and hear God in prayer.		X		Grow in the practice of simply being in God's presence and keeping him company. Identify ways that God speaks to us and develop the capacity to listen and hear God in prayer.
Explain and practice personal and community prayer. Understand the importance of both.		X		Grow in the practice of personal and community prayer. Understand the importance of both.
Practice meditative prayer (a vehicle to think about the mysteries of our salvation in Christ) and contemplative prayer (a gift from God, being with God like being with our best friend and simply enjoying his presence).		X		Grow in the practice of meditative prayer (a vehicle to think about the mysteries of our salvation in Christ) and contemplative prayer (a gift from God, being with God like being with our best friend and simply enjoying his presence).
Explain and practice the difference between personal and community prayer. Understand the importance of both.	X			Explain and practice the difference between personal and community prayer. Understand the importance of both.
Identify communities with whom we pray and pray with them.	X			Identify communities with whom we pray and pray with them.
Experience different kinds of personal prayer (reflection, Ignatian meditation, guided meditation, etc.) Understand that listening to God's word in Scripture is a privileged way God speaks to us. Introduce litanies of the Saints, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the Sacred Heart.	X			Experience different kinds of personal prayer (reflection, Ignatian meditation, guided meditation, etc.) Understand that listening to God's word in Scripture is a privileged way God speaks to us. Introduce litanies of the Saints, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the Sacred Heart.
Understand and practice the sacraments as a way of prayer.	X			Understand and practice the sacraments as a way of prayer.
Pray for the needs and intentions of others. Remember: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pope, bishop, and pastor - Those who hurt us - For the protection of human life, from conception to natural death - The dead - Family members 	X			Pray for the needs and intentions of others. Remember: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pope, bishop, and pastor - Those who hurt us - For the protection of human life, from conception to natural death - The dead - Family members

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Review previous prayers. Analyze the meaning of and practice: - The Prayer to the Holy Spirit		X		Review previous prayers (see gr. 6). Analyze the meaning of and practice: - The Prayer to the Holy Spirit - The Divine Praises - The Te Deum - Magnificat, Canticle of Zachariah, Canticle of Simeon, Anna's prayer (all found in Luke).
Become familiar with devotions, such as the First Friday and First Saturday devotions, Divine Mercy Chaplet, etc.	X			Become familiar with devotions, such as the First Friday and First Saturday devotions, Divine Mercy Chaplet, etc.
Bow head at the name of Jesus.	X			Bow head at the name of Jesus.
Recognize that the Stations of the Cross are an especially good prayer during Lent, but can be prayed anytime. Engage in praying the Stations of the Cross.	X			Recognize that the Stations of the Cross are an especially good prayer during Lent, but can be prayed anytime. Engage in praying the Stations of the Cross.
Recognize the core components of the Stations of the Cross.	X			Recognize the core components of the Stations of the Cross.
Understand and demonstrate the basics of praying the rosary, in private and public. - Rosary helps us imitate the lives of Jesus and Mary - A way to understand Jesus with Mary's help - Each mystery tells us about Jesus' life or who he is by focusing on events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. - Explore different ways to pray the Rosary.	X			Understand and demonstrate the basics of praying the rosary, in private and public. - Rosary helps us imitate the lives of Jesus and Mary - A way to understand Jesus with Mary's help - Each mystery tells us about Jesus' life or who he is by focusing on events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. - Explore different ways to pray the Rosary.
List and explain the mysteries of the Rosary.	X			List and explain the mysteries of the Rosary.
Encourage students to daily pray the rosary with attention.	X			Encourage students to daily pray the rosary with attention.
Participate in May Crowning and other traditional Marian devotions.	X			Participate in May Crowning and other traditional Marian devotions.
Participate in All Saints Day and All Soul's Day celebrations, understanding the purpose for these celebrations as distinct from pop culture meanings.	X			Participate in All Saints Day and All Soul's Day celebrations, understanding the purpose for these celebrations as distinct from pop culture meanings.
Participate in Adoration and Benediction and grow in devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Recognize why Catholics participate in Adoration and Benediction.	X			Participate in Adoration and Benediction and grow in devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Recognize why Catholics participate in Adoration and Benediction.
Become familiar with the Forty Hours devotion.	X			Become familiar with the Forty Hours devotion.

Religion Guidelines
Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Church: The Body of Christ		Church: The Body of Christ	
Who is the Church?		Who is the Church?	
	X		Recognize that Jesus established the Church. Explore Jesus' foundation of the Church beginning in his preaching, continuing through the Paschal mystery, Pentecost, Acts, and apostolic succession.
	X		Recognize the work and place of Mary in Salvation History: Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus, virgin birth, Assumption, Mother of the Church.
The Church is the Body of Christ on Earth. The Church, particularly in the seven sacraments, is the way that God chooses to be present in the world, to encounter and to save His people.	X		The Church is the Body of Christ on Earth. The Church, particularly in the seven sacraments, is the way that God chooses to be present in the world, to encounter and to save His people.
	X		The Church, the Body of Christ, is both divine and human.
Recognize that the Church is the sacrament of Christ in the world, the visible sign through which God gives grace.			
The Church is made up of people united by their profession of the Faith, reception of Sacraments, and submission to the leadership of the Pope and Bishops.			
Recognize that the Church is the seed of the kingdom of God beginning now on earth.			
Jesus' mission is lived through the Holy Spirit in the Church, which is His Body (St. Paul called the Church the Body of Christ). The Church is missionary by her nature (see Evangelization under Living as a Christian in Society).	X		Jesus' mission is lived through the Holy Spirit in the Church, which is His Body (St. Paul called the Church the Body of Christ). The Church is missionary by her nature (see Evangelization under Living as a Christian in Society).
Recognize that Eastern Catholic Churches that are in union with the true Church, have different ways of expressing the true faith in their own culture.	X		Recognize that in the Catholic faith, there are rites. We are in the Roman rite. All the Rites share one faith, sacraments, and hierarchy. Recognize that it is preferred that we attend liturgy in our own rite, but we may fully participate in the liturgy of all of the Rites in the Catholic Church. The pope is head of all of the rites and their leaders.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Understand that there are some Eastern Christian Churches that do not accept the role of the Pope and are called “Orthodox”. They are not in union with the Catholic Church.	X			Understand that there are some Eastern Christian Churches that do not accept the role of the Pope and are called “Orthodox”. They are not in union with the Catholic Church.
Recognize that other Christians share a common baptism and belief in Jesus, even though they do not share the fullness of all that Jesus taught us.	X			Recognize that other Christians share a common baptism and belief in Jesus, even though they do not share the fullness of all that Jesus taught us.
		X		Recognize Lutheran, Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, and Apostolic churches as beginning from the Protestant Reformation.
Review how to build a strong friendship with other Christians and other faiths, recognizing what we share in common and being honest about differences.	X			Review how to build a strong friendship with other Christians and other faiths, recognizing what we share in common and being honest about differences.
Jesus gave His Church the fullness of truth and the authority to teach the truth. He gave us the Catholic Church to give us grace, his very own life. When we follow the Church, we follow Jesus.	X			Jesus gave His Church the fullness of truth and the authority to teach the truth. He gave us the Catholic Church to give us grace, his very own life. When we follow the Church, we follow Jesus.
The Jewish people are our older brothers in the faith. The Church is the fulfillment of what God promised them as the Chosen People.		X		The Jewish people are our older brothers in the faith. The Church is the fulfillment of what God promised them as the Chosen People, and God continues to be faithful to his covenants and gifts to the Jewish people.
All the people of the Church (baptized) are connected in the communion of saints, which includes people in heaven, in purgatory, and those on Earth trying to live a holy life with God.	X			All the people of the Church (baptized) are connected in the communion of saints, which includes people in heaven, in purgatory, and those on Earth trying to live a holy life with God. This means that the Church is in heaven, in purgatory and on Earth.
Jesus established the Church, is its head, and told it to grow. Jesus wanted all of his followers to be one, and we pray for unity because Jesus prayed for unity.				
The Holy Spirit guides the Church and helps the Church grow, spread to the whole world, and serve the whole world.				
God dwells in the Church, the Body of Christ.				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

The Church continues the work of Christ on Earth (teach, govern, and sanctify), with the help of the Holy Spirit.				
Jesus entrusted the truth about God to the Apostles and sent them out to spread the message of God's love and to baptize all nations. (Matthew 28:19)				
The Holy Spirit helps the apostles remember and understand all that Jesus taught.		X		The Holy Spirit helps the apostles remember and understand all that Jesus taught. The Holy Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy through the apostles and their successors.
		X		The Holy Spirit inspires all people, in accord with their state in life, to work to help the Church be holy and faithful.
The apostles were the ones who lead the early Church communities. The bishops are the successors of the apostles.	X			The apostles were the ones who lead the early Church communities. The bishops are the successors of the apostles.
Jesus chose Peter as the leader of his Apostles to lead, teach, and guide the Church and spread the Gospel. Peter, and his successors, the popes, are the visible head of the Church and a sign of her unity.	X			Jesus chose Peter as the leader of his Apostles to lead, teach, and guide the Church and spread the Gospel. Peter, and his successors, the popes, are the visible head of the Church and a sign of her unity.
		X		Jesus gave the pope and bishops in union with him the authority to guard and teach the faith (cf. magisterium).
		X		Defend the Catholic understanding of the Pope using the Scriptures and Fathers of the Church. https://www.catholic.com/tract/the-authority-of-the-pope-part-i
Recognize the saints as examples, witnesses of the Faith, and friends in Christ.				
Identify and explain the four marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. We can tell the true church that Jesus founded by looking for these signs.	X			Identify and explain the four marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. We can tell the true church that Jesus founded by looking for these signs.
Explore how the Church is and is called to be a visible sign of unity and bring about peace in the world.	X			Explore how the Church is and is called to be a visible sign of unity and bring about peace in the world. Understand that the unity of the Church mirrors the unity of the Trinity.
Everyone united to Jesus is united to each other in Jesus.	X			Everyone united to Jesus is united to each other in Jesus.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Explore the visible signs of the Church's unity: one origin, one baptism, one faith, and one unbroken line of apostolic succession, beginning with Peter.	X			Explore the visible signs of the Church's unity: one origin, one baptism, one faith, and one unbroken line of apostolic succession, beginning with Peter.
Explore how the Church is Catholic, or universal.				
		X		Find the marks of the Church in the Nicene Creed.
God constantly sustains the Church.				
Church in Heaven		Church in Heaven		
		X		Another name for the Church in Heaven is the Church Triumphant.
Identify the saints as friends who live in heaven with God, and who love us and want to help us.	X			Identify the saints as friends who live in heaven with God, and who love us and want to help us.
Identify saints as normal people who grew close to God because they grew in love.	X			Identify saints as normal people who grew close to God because they grew in love.
Recognize that while some saints, human beings living with God in heaven, are canonized, many are not.	X			Recognize that while some saints, human beings living with God in heaven, are canonized, many are not.
Identify Mary as a model of holiness, especially in the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. Recognize Mary as the Mother of God, because Jesus is fully God and fully human.		X		Identify Mary as a model of holiness and quiet service.
		X		Explore the following ways that Mary was instrumental in the life of the Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mother of God - Remained a virgin her whole life, so that she could be the "Handmaid of the Lord" with her whole being. - First and perfect disciple of Jesus - Mediatrice of Grace because all grace from Jesus came through Mary - Eve brought sin, but Mary brought the savior - Jesus' first miracle "Do whatever he tells you." - Jesus gave her as mother to John and to all of us on the cross.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

Understand that Mary never sinned.	X			Understand that Mary never sinned.
Recognize that Mary loves and cares for us, even more than our own mothers.	X			Recognize that Mary loves and cares for us, even more than our own mothers.
		X		Mary helps us on our journey to be united to Jesus. Explore the way that she accompanies us through her titles (both from tradition and proclamation).
		X		Explore apparitions of Mary that have been approved by the Church (e.g. Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima).
Recognize that the lives of the saints show us how to follow Jesus.	X			Recognize that the lives of the saints show us how to follow Jesus.
Recount the lives of several saints, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review saints of the past - Allow students to lead the discussion and meet new saints. 	X			Recount the lives of several saints, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review saints of the past - Allow students to lead the discussion and meet new saints.
Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States.		X		Saints who died for the Faith are called martyrs (witnesses).
St. Patrick is the patron of the Diocese of Erie.	X			St. Patrick is the patron of the Diocese of Erie.
Recount the life of his/her patron saint and begin to develop a relationship with him/her.	X			Recount the life of his/her patron saint and begin to develop a relationship with him/her.
Distinguish between worship of God and devotion and love of the saints.	X			Distinguish between worship of God and devotion and love of the saints.
Church in Purgatory				Church in Purgatory
		X		The Church in Purgatory is also called the Church Suffering
Purgatory is the final purification of the soul after death and before entrance into heaven to make one perfect for Eternal Life.	X			Purgatory is the final purification of the soul after death and before entrance into heaven to make one perfect for Eternal Life.
Our prayers help a person in their purification.				
Once a person goes to purgatory, they can only go to heaven. A person cannot go to hell after purgatory. Purgatory is not a "second try at life."				
Church on Earth				Church on Earth

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

		X		The Church on Earth is also called the Church Militant because it is made up of Christians fighting against evil and working for a holy life.
The Church is one in beliefs, worship, and government.	X			The Church is one in beliefs, worship, and government.
The role of the clergy is to teach, govern, and sanctify.	X			The role of the clergy is to teach, govern, and sanctify.
Explain how the authority of God is manifested in the hierarchy if the Catholic Church.	X			Explain how the authority of God is manifested in the hierarchy if the Catholic Church.
The people who make up the Church are clergy, religious, and lay people.	X			The people who make up the Church are clergy, religious, and lay people.
Understand that the Church around the world is made up of many dioceses. A diocese is made up of many parishes.				
Understand roles in the Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pope: visible head of the Church, successor of Peter, and Vicar of Christ, leader of the Church worldwide - Cardinal: advisors to the Pope. Usually a bishop before being appointed cardinal; this group of men elects the next pope. - Bishop: head of a diocese, successor of the Apostles, under leadership of the Pope - Pastor: head of a local parish - Priest: man who received Holy Orders and helps the faithful live their vocation, especially by administering the sacraments - Deacons: men who receive Holy orders and assist the priest in his mission. - religious sisters, religious brothers – make special promises to God, usually of poverty, chastity, and obedience. - Laity: faithful who are not ordained 				
Recognize that while the Church is holy, sometimes Catholics do not live up to God’s call. For this reason, we are called to continual reform, renewal, and conversion.	X			Recognize that while the Church is holy, sometimes Catholics do not live up to God’s call. For this reason, we are called to continual reform, renewal, and conversion.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

<p>Papal infallibility means that the Holy Spirit keeps the Pope from teaching error in matters of faith and morals. For the teacher: The conditions for an infallible statement are that it must 1) be the pope 2) talking in his authority as pope – ex cathedra 3) defines a doctrine that concerns faith and morals. There have been very few infallible statements. For more information visit: https://www.catholic.com/tract/papal-infallibility</p>	X			<p>Papal infallibility means that the Holy Spirit keeps the Pope from teaching error in matters of faith and morals. For the teacher: The conditions for an infallible statement are that it must 1) be the pope 2) talking in his authority as pope – ex cathedra 3) defines a doctrine that concerns faith and morals. There have been very few infallible statements. For more information visit: https://www.catholic.com/tract/papal-infallibility</p>
<p>The Magisterium is the teaching office of the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, to pass on Jesus’ teaching without error, and to interpret without error the Word of God in the Bible and in Sacred Tradition.</p>	X			<p>The Magisterium, pope and bishops in union with him, is the teaching office of the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, to pass on Jesus’ teaching without error, and to interpret without error the Word of God in the Bible and in Sacred Tradition.</p>
<p>Know the name of the Pope, Bishop, and Pastor.</p>	X			<p>Know the name of the Pope, Bishop, and Pastor.</p>
<p>Understand tithing for the support of the Church and the poor as a responsibility for all Christians and a way of showing gratitude for all the gifts God gives us and trust that he will provide for us.</p>	X			<p>Understand tithing for the support of the Church and the poor as a responsibility for all Christians and a way of showing gratitude for all the gifts God gives us and trust that he will provide for us.</p>
		X		<p>Recognize the role of stewardship in our parishes. Cultivate a responsible stewardship by identifying opportunities and forming a generous and responsible heart.</p>
<p>In tithing, usually we give 10% or more of our income and resources.</p>	X			<p>In tithing, usually we give 10% or more of our income and resources.</p>
<p>As members of the Church, we learn from and are supported by others who are living the Christian way.</p>	X	X		<p>Discuss how we, as members of the Church, learn from and are supported by others who are living the Christian way. Discuss ways to teach and support others.</p>

Religion Guidelines
Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Christians in the World		Christians in the World	
Catholic Social Teaching		Catholic Social Teaching	
Recognize that only by following God’s plan for the world, beginning to freely form the Reign of God, will we come to justice and peace.	X		Recognize that only by following God’s plan for the world, beginning to freely form the Reign of God, will we come to justice and peace.
		X	Explore how Gospel values should drive social, economic, and political choices.
Explore natural law and give examples. Explain that governments must make socially just laws to protect the human dignity and rights of its citizens.	X		Explore natural law and give examples. Explain that governments must make socially just laws to protect the human dignity and rights of its citizens.
Explore the Catholic understanding of the common good. State concrete ways to work toward the common good.	X		Explore the Catholic understanding of the common good. State concrete ways to work toward the common good.
The more we love Jesus in the Holy Eucharist the more we will love and serve others. The Holy Eucharist helps us be committed to the poor.	X		The more we love Jesus in the Holy Eucharist the more we will love and serve others. The Holy Eucharist helps us be committed to the poor.
	X		Explain how human rights flow from human dignity. Recognize ways to respect the dignity of human life in all of its forms.
		X	Understand that every human right has a corresponding responsibility. Explore the responsibilities that come from basic human rights.
	X		Show concern for the dignity of all people, especially the most vulnerable (e.g. unborn, elderly, special needs, mentally ill, poor, suffering).
		X	Recognize the Church’s special mission to the poor and identify models of those who responded to God’s call to holiness through service to others.
Explore the seven themes of Catholic social teaching. For the teacher: http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm	X		Explore the seven themes of Catholic social teaching. For the teacher: http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Use the principles of Catholic social teaching to analyze and evaluate both individual situations and those affecting wider society.	X			Use the principles of Catholic social teaching to analyze and evaluate both individual situations and those affecting wider society.
Identify leadership as God's call to service.	X			Identify leadership as God's call to service.
Cultivate a sense of personal responsibility for one's own choices and their consequences within the community.	X			Cultivate a sense of personal responsibility for one's own choices and their consequences within the community.
Recognize our responsibility to be good stewards of creation and all goods we have by sharing and conserving Earth's resources and all creatures entrusted to us.	X			Recognize our responsibility to be good stewards of creation and all goods we have by sharing and conserving Earth's resources and all creatures entrusted to us.
Define stewardship as gratefully sharing and using gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Compare and contrast responsible and irresponsible stewardship.	X			Define stewardship as gratefully sharing and using gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Compare and contrast responsible and irresponsible stewardship.
		X		Recognize that service is indispensable in Christian life. Identify examples of service in the Old Testament, New Testament and in Jesus' life.
Each person is worthy of respect and kindness because of their dignity, which comes from being created by God, loved by God and called to a life of holiness.				
Identify actions, especially those that are popular in contemporary lifestyles, that support or undermine the value of life.	X			Identify actions, especially those that are popular in contemporary lifestyles, that support or undermine the value of life.
Recognize and understand that differences in personalities, races, and nationalities are good for the whole of the human family.	X			Recognize and understand that differences in personalities, races, and nationalities are good for the whole of the human family.
Recognize the time of year that Christians share prayer for unity (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Jan 18-25 every year).	X			Recognize the time of year that Christians share prayer for unity (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Jan 18-25 every year).
Understand that our respect for other faiths does not mean we deny that the fullness of the faith Christ taught is found in the Catholic Church.				
Recognize and respect the rights and equality of all people.				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Recognize that, as Christians, we support laws that cultivate each person's dignity as a free and unrepeatable beloved creature of God. That is why we cannot support abortion or euthanasia.	X			Recognize that, as Christians, we support laws that cultivate each person's dignity as a free and unrepeatable beloved creature of God. That is why we cannot support abortion or euthanasia.
Compare and contrast the world's values with the values that Jesus gives us in the Beatitudes.	X			Compare and contrast the world's values with the values that Jesus gives us in the Beatitudes.
Identify Christian service as a response to the needs of the community and a way to show God's love. Christian service reaches out especially to those who are in most need or who are least valued.	X			Identify Christian service as a response to the needs of the community and a way to show God's love. Christian service reaches out especially to those who are in most need or who are least valued.
Recognize that the spiritual and corporeal works of mercy are ways of showing our love for Jesus, who cares for the poor.				
Show empathy and a desire to care for the poor, hungry, and homeless, victims of violence and injustice, for those who are addicted and for those who suffer.				
Show concern for the dignity of all people, especially the most vulnerable (e.g. unborn, elderly, special needs, mentally ill).				
Understand that it is every Christian's responsibility to work for justice and to foster world peace, human rights, the sacredness of life, and the alleviation of world hunger and thirst.		X		Explore the importance of age appropriate activity in public and political life. Take age-appropriate action to work for justice and peace in public life.
Recognize a personal responsibility to, like the prophets, speak out against injustice and work to end suffering.				
Recognize Christians' responsibility to keep promises, oaths, contracts and covenants.				
Engage in choosing and participating in service activities that build up life and show respect for God's creation.		X		Engage in choosing and participating in service activities that build up life and show respect for God's creation.
Discuss ways that individuals, families, and parishes can be attentive to others, welcome them, and work to serve them.				
Recognize that it is every Christian's responsibility to work and pray for a more just world.	X			Recognize that it is every Christian's responsibility to work and pray for a more just world.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Identify rights and responsibilities of membership in: family, neighborhood, parish, and civil society.				
Evangelization				Evangelization
Understand that our call to evangelize comes from Jesus' command "Go and make disciples."	X			Understand that our call to evangelize comes from Jesus' command "Go and make disciples."
Identify times when Jesus gave his disciples the mission to evangelize. (Eg Mt 28:19, Mk 16:15, Acts 1:8)	X			Identify times when Jesus gave his disciples the mission to evangelize. (E.g. Mt 28:19, Mk 16:15, Acts 1:8)
Demonstrate how and when we should share our faith in Jesus and invite others to know Him, love Him, and be part of his family, the Church.	X			Demonstrate how and when we should share our faith in Jesus and invite others to know Him, love Him, and be part of his family, the Church.
Report the meaning of the word evangelization: to proclaim Christ and his Gospel by word and the testimony of life, in fulfillment of his command to go and make disciples.	X			Report the meaning of the word evangelization: to proclaim Christ and his Gospel by word and the testimony of life, in fulfillment of his command to go and make disciples.
		X		Rephrase and apply Jesus' words: "Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you." Mt 28:20
		X		Discuss why the way we live is just as important in spreading the Gospel, if not more important, than anything we say about Jesus.
		X		Describe how understanding what others believe can help a person share the Gospel effectively.
Describe ways that parishes and families are involved in evangelization.	X			Describe ways that parishes and families are involved in evangelization.
Recognize that every Catholic is called to have a missionary spirit by engaging in works of mercy, supporting missionaries, and sharing his or her faith.	X			Recognize that every Catholic is called to have a missionary spirit by engaging in works of mercy, supporting missionaries, and sharing his or her faith.
	X			Discuss ways that Catholics can be and are missionaries.
		X		Identify missionary calls in the lives of the saints (E.g. St. Isaac Jogues, St. Therese of Lisieux, Mother Cabrini, St. Damien)
Realize that the core mission of the Church is missionary.	X			Realize that the core mission of the Church is missionary.
Discuss ways that the Catholic Church continues Jesus' mission from the Father, in the Holy Spirit.				

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Discuss ways to defend gospel values in our culture, which often disagrees.				
Discuss the encouragement needed to live out the mission of giving witness to the Faith.	X			Discuss the encouragement needed to live out the mission of giving witness to the Faith.
Recognize our vocation as a way of sharing in the Church's mission to share the Gospel.	X			Recognize our vocation as a way of sharing in the Church's mission to share the Gospel.
Understand that we need to bear witness to our Catholic faith in our community and society.	X			Understand that we need to bear witness to our Catholic faith in our community and society.
Each person is worthy of respect and kindness because of their dignity, which comes from being created by God, loved by God and called to a life of holiness.				
Identify actions, especially those that are popular in contemporary lifestyles, that support or undermine the value of life.		X		Identify and analyze actions, especially those that are popular in contemporary lifestyles, that support or undermine the value of life.
Recognize the equal dignity of races, sexes, and rights of all people.				
Recognize that, as Christians, we support laws that cultivate each person's dignity as a free and unrepeatable beloved creature of God. That is why we cannot support abortion or euthanasia.				
Compare and contrast the world's values with the values that Jesus gives us in the Beatitudes.				
Recognize that the spiritual and corporeal works of mercy are ways of showing our love for Jesus, who cares for the poor.				
Show concern and a desire to care for the poor, hungry, and homeless, victims of violence and injustice, and those who suffer.				
Show concern for the dignity of all people, especially the most vulnerable (e.g. unborn, elderly, special needs, mentally ill).				

Religion Guidelines
Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Theology of the Body		Theology of the Body	
Explain that each person was created from love and is meant to love and be loved.	X		Explain that each person was created from love and is meant to love and be loved.
Recognize that at conception, which is the first moment of new life, an irreplaceable and unrepeatable human being (body and soul) is created and loved by God.	X		Recognize that at conception, which is the first moment of new life, an irreplaceable and unrepeatable human being (body and soul) is created and loved by God.
Develop a sense of personal dignity based on being made in God's image and likeness.	X		Develop a sense of personal dignity based on being made in God's image and likeness.
		X	Recognize that we are created as male or female. Our sexuality affects our whole person and is expressed in our physical, mental, social, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual characteristics and perspectives.
Trace how sin damaged the original relationships in the Garden of Eden and how they affect us today: the human person and God; human beings and nature; between human persons, and within one's self.	X		Trace how sin damaged the original relationships in the Garden of Eden and how they affect us today: the human person and God; human beings and nature; between human persons, and within one's self.
The two main powers of the soul are: - Intellect: by which we think, judge, and understand - Will: by which we freely choose good or evil		X	Understand how God created the intellect, will, and emotions to interact. Discuss the effect on our actions.
Explain that God wanted human beings to have the liberty to love and choose him freely, so he gives them a free will that he will never coerce.	X		Explain that God wanted human beings to have the liberty to love and choose him freely, so he gives them a free will that he will never coerce.
The human person is the only earthly creature with a soul that can think and choose. Identify humanity as the summit of creation.	X		The human person is the only earthly creature with a soul that can think and choose. Identify humanity as the summit of creation.
God's greatest gift to us is life – both natural and supernatural (sanctifying grace) life.	X		God's greatest gift to us is life – both natural and supernatural (sanctifying grace) life.
God made humans with body, mind, and soul, in the image of God. Humans are most like God when they love by freely and truly making a gift of themselves.	X		God made humans with body, mind, and soul, in the image of God. Humans are most like God when they love by freely and truly making a gift of themselves.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Explain why a person's special dignity helps us understand that each person should be loved and that no person should ever be used, disregarded, or treated like an object.	X			Explain why a person's special dignity helps us understand that each person should be loved and that no person should ever be used, disregarded, or treated like an object.
Explain that God made each human being as a boy or a girl as revealed in their bodies. Recognize that boys and girls have equal dignity and that the differences in boys and girls are complementary.	X			Explain that God made each human being as a boy or a girl as revealed in their bodies. Recognize that boys and girls have equal dignity and that the differences in boys and girls are complementary.
Acknowledge that God creates each person as a boy or a girl from the moment of conception.	X			Acknowledge that God creates each person as a boy or a girl from the moment of conception.
Define human sexuality as a gift from God in which we share in God's creation.				
Understand that God, as our loving Father and creator, teaches us how to use his gift of sexuality through the Church.	X			Understand that God, as our loving Father and creator, teaches us how to use his gift of sexuality through the Church.
Identify how that human body reveals the person.	X			Identify how that human body reveals the person.
Explain how, through loving actions, the human body can reveal God.	X			Explain how, through loving actions, the human body can reveal God.
Explain that all creation is designed by God to reveal an aspect of who He is.	X			Explain that all creation is designed by God to reveal an aspect of who He is.
Understand and identify loving and selfish choices in real life situations.				
Discuss the practice of love as a sacrificial gift to others in the family.	X			Discuss the practice of love as a sacrificial gift to others in the family.
Demonstrate appropriate ways to show affection for immediate family members, extended family members, and friends & peers.	X			Demonstrate appropriate ways to show affection for immediate family members, extended family members, and friends & peers.
Discuss appropriate responses to the feeling of attraction.		X		Recognize that sexual attraction is a good and wholesome element of God's plan to bring a man and woman together in marriage, teach them selfless love, and bless them with children. Discuss appropriate responses to the feeling of attraction.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Recognize the negative consequences of inappropriate displays of affection.		X		Recognize the negative consequences of inappropriate displays of affection and/or uses of the gift of sexuality.
Explain that love is to want what is best for the other person.	X			Explain that love is to want what is best for the other person.
Compare and contrast selfish and unselfish ways members of a peer group, family, and others impact the life of those around them.	X			Compare and contrast selfish and unselfish ways members of a peer group, family, and others impact the life of those around them.
Discuss friendship in the context of the Great Commandment. Discuss the effects of excluding, ignoring, and manipulating others.		X		Explore how our choices affect our family, those in our group of friends, and those in our community.
Explore the family relationships of the Old Testament and the effect of their actions on their families and culture. Compare and contrast with events and actions of people in today's families.				
Identify elements of healthy, truthful, affirmative, and life-giving friendships. Conversely, identify signs of unhealthy friendships.	X			Identify elements of healthy, truthful, affirmative, and life-giving friendships. Conversely, identify signs of unhealthy friendships.
Explore the value of strong, healthy friendship, in imitation of Jesus Christ.	X			Explore the value of strong, healthy friendship, in imitation of Jesus Christ.
Discuss healthy ways to address problems in friendships, seeking to reconcile and show Jesus' love for each other.	X			Discuss healthy ways to address problems in friendships, seeking to reconcile and show Jesus' love for each other.
In an age-appropriate and sensitive manner, discuss how emotional and physical changes in middle school can affect friendships.	X			In an age-appropriate and sensitive manner, discuss how emotional and physical changes in middle school can affect friendships.
		X		Discuss positive ways to address changes in relationships with persons of the other gender.
Explain friendship as Christ-like love for another which leads others to Christ.	X			Explain friendship as Christ-like love for another which leads others to Christ.
Understand that truth and communication are important components of healthy friendship.	X			Understand that truth and communication are important components of healthy friendship.
		X		Discuss changes that occur in relationships because of growth and maturity. Discuss their effects. Recognize that

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison

Seventh Grade Emphasis

				these changes often occur at different rates for different people.
	X			Discuss how to live the virtues to build friendships with all adults and healthy relationships with those of the opposite gender.
Understand that life (including ours, babies, the sick, and those with disabilities) is a “precious gift entrusted to us by God” (CCC 2288).				
Jesus shows us what it is like live our life as a gift. He is the best model.		X		Recognize and explain the special significance of the Incarnation in understanding human dignity.
Identify Biblical references that point to God’s gift of making our bodies temples of the Holy Spirit.		X		Use what Jesus said and did to defend the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our dignity is based on being created in the image and likeness of God. - Each person has human dignity, including the poor and vulnerable. - All life is sacred, from conception to natural death.
Unpack the story of creation to support the Catholic understanding of human dignity.		X		Identify basic rights of all human persons.
Show ways of caring for God’s gift of the body (basic health and wellness, respect for the needs of our bodies).		X		Encourage a positive attitude toward sexuality based on respect of persons as images of God.
Build an appreciation for the beauty and strength of purity and modesty. Identify strong and appealing role models for chastity.	X			Build an appreciation for the beauty and strength of purity and modesty. Identify strong and appealing role models for chastity.
		X		Recognize sinful sexual behaviors and offenses against chastity. Identify the ways in which they undermine human dignity and grow in appreciation for the opposite virtues.
		X		Understand that everyone, regardless of their state in life, is called to a life of chastity. Discuss what is needed for a chaste lifestyle.
		X		Explain and give examples of how people exercise self-control over their sexual thoughts and desires out of respect for God, themselves, and other persons.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Define guidelines for discerning modest behavior, speech, and dress.	X			Define guidelines for discerning modest behavior, speech, and dress.
Recognize that using one's sexuality well means taking general good care of one's body as well as modest behavior (dress and speech).	X			Recognize that using one's sexuality well means taking general good care of one's body as well as modest behavior (dress and speech).
Discuss choice of movies, TV programs, music, books, magazines, video games, etc., recognizing the need to avoid media that injures human dignity and enjoy media that supports human dignity.	X			Discuss choice of movies, TV programs, music, books, magazines, video games, etc., recognizing the need to avoid media that injures human dignity and enjoy media that supports human dignity.
		X		Identify the positive and negative effects of peer pressure.
		X		In a sensitive, age-appropriate manner, define pornography and discuss appropriate precautions and reactions.
Discuss our need for God's grace and the fruits of the Holy Spirit, especially modesty, chastity, and self-control, to use our sexuality appropriately.	X			Discuss our need for God's grace and the fruits of the Holy Spirit, especially modesty, chastity, and self-control, to use our sexuality appropriately.
Recognize chastity as a gift from God, designed to safeguard the purity and modesty of our love, that is guarded by his grace. Modesty in language and dress, prayer, the sacraments, and devotion to Mary help keep chastity strong in our lives.	X			Recognize chastity as a gift from God, designed to safeguard the purity and modesty of our love, that is guarded by his grace. Modesty in language and dress, prayer, the sacraments, and devotion to Mary help keep chastity strong in our lives.
Discuss the varied ways to preserve and strengthen purity (unselfish, not-using love) of thought, word, and action.	X			Discuss the varied ways to preserve and strengthen purity (unselfish, not-using love) of thought, word, and action.
Since our life is a gift, we are called to share that gift with God and others. For a gift to be authentic, it must be sincerely given and received.	X			Since our life is a gift, we are called to share that gift with God and others. For a gift to be authentic, it must be sincerely given and received.
Everyone has special gifts to use for the good of others, to help them on Earth and to help them get to heaven.		X		Identify gifts and talents. Explore where these gifts may be used currently and in the future, in each vocation (that is open to the student).
Explain that each relationship of self-giving requires each person to also be in relationship with God.	X			Explain that each relationship of self-giving requires each person to also be in relationship with God.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

God's followers always respect life. Recognize and demonstrate that we care about others, especially those who are unable to help themselves.	X			God's followers always respect life. Recognize and demonstrate that we care about others, especially those who are unable to help themselves.
Engage in age appropriate respect life activities.	X			Engage in age appropriate respect life activities.
A vocation is a call from God and a special way of loving and serving in the Church.		X		Recognize ways that God is calling us to serve in the New Testament. Relate them to the vocations.
We recognize God's call to a vocation through prayer, learning about different vocations, and listening to God.				
Explain and describe how each vocation, single, married, ordained or religious, builds up the community in a unique way.		X		Explore the benefits and challenges to each vocation: married, single, religious, ordained.
		X		Recognize the difference between active religious life and contemplative religious life.
		X		Identify ways in which particular people living in each vocation have built up the Church and their community by living their vocation.
Understand that marriage takes its form after the first marriage in the creation of Adam and Eve.		X		Compare and contrast God's idea of marriage and the idea of marriage we often see in the media.
Explain dating as the discernment of marriage with a person.	X			Explain dating as the discernment of marriage with a person.
Discuss the friendship and sacredness of marital love.	X			Discuss the friendship and sacredness of marital love.
Understand marriage as a covenant. Compare it to Old Testament covenants.	X			Understand marriage as a covenant. Compare it to Old Testament covenants.
Recognize the three marriage promises that a husband and wife make to each other: faithfulness, permanence, and being open to having children.	X			Recognize the three marriage promises that a husband and wife make to each other: faithfulness, permanence, and being open to having children.
		X		Recognize that true love is free, total, faithful, and fruitful. Identify these elements in Christ's example and explain what they mean to our friendships in light of Jesus' command to "love one another as I have loved you"
		X		Explore what Jesus' command to "love one another as I have loved you" means in the context of married love.

Religion Guidelines

Sixth-Seventh Grade Comparison
Seventh Grade Emphasis

Define sexual love as a special gift of God to express committed love within marriage and a share in God's power to create new life.	X			Define sexual love as a special gift of God to express committed love within marriage and a share in God's power to create new life.
Parents have a vocation to serve God and the Church by helping their children grow close to God.	X			Parents have a vocation to serve God and the Church by helping their children grow close to God.
Discuss the unity of the persons of the Trinity as the basis for communion of persons in the family.	X			Discuss the unity of the persons of the Trinity as the basis for communion of persons in the family.
Define the family as the domestic Church.				
The family is the basic unity of the Church and of society, and it needs to be protected and respected.	X			The family is the basic unity of the Church and of society, and it needs to be protected and respected.
		X		Recognize the stages of human life present in a family. Describe the human dignity of persons at each stage.
Recognize that family first forms us in our values, religious practices, customs and traditions.	X			Recognize that family first forms us in our values, religious practices, customs and traditions.
Holy Orders is a sacrament of special service and commitment to the Church.	X			Holy Orders is a sacrament of special service and commitment to the Church.
Recognize that priests can be diocesan or part of a religious community (religious priests).	X			Recognize that priests can be diocesan or part of a religious community (religious priests).
Explore different orders of consecrated life. Become familiar with the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.	X			Explore different orders of consecrated life. Become familiar with the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.
All people are called to holiness by living their lives close to God.	X			All people are called to holiness by living their lives close to God.