

# Lesson Guides For Parish Faith Formation



*Diocese of Lansing 2024*

*Parish Lesson Guides*

# **Kindergarten**

*Diocese of Lansing 2024*

**Subject Matter: Prayer****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time/ beginning of the year.****Explanation/Proclamation**

Prayer is a way to communicate (talk and listen) with God.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in prayer, including guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; see lessons for more information. (DOL.K.ENC.01)
- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.K.ENC.03)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.K.ENC.04)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.K.ENC.05)
- Respond to God independently and spontaneously. (DOL.K.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Understand that prayer is a gift from God. (DOL.K.GROW.PRA.01)
- Recognize that prayer is talking and listening to God. (DOL.K.GROW.PRA.02)
- Understand that God listens to us when we pray through silence, the spoken word, or song. (DOL.K.GROW.PRA.03)
- Learn prayers of the church appropriate for age. (i.e. Sign of the Cross, Grace before meals.) (DOL.K.GROW.PRA.04)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations and prayer time. (DOL.K.WIT.01)
- Receive God's gifts gratefully. (DOL.K.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- CCC 2558-2565
- YC - 469-479

**Resources**Maps/Geography: [Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus](#), [Israel in the time of Jesus](#)

Art:

Music:

Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) pg. 16, Glory Be, Grace before Meals, Sign of the Cross**Vocabulary**

- Prayer, Amen

**Reflection Questions**

1. Do you have a favorite prayer?
2. What are some different types of prayers?
3. I wonder how my prayer can help others.

**Subject Matter: Bible****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

The Holy Bible is a very special book. We listen to and read it with reverence because it is God's Word.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.K.ENC.03)

**GROW**

- Recognize that the Bible is God's Word. Listen to narratives from the Bible with reverence. (DOL.K.GROW.SCR.01)

**WITNESS**

- Receive God's gifts gratefully. (DOL.K.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture - looking at the Holy Bible as a whole and exploring it (introduce to them these elements of the Bible: Books, Chapters, verses)
- CCC 112, 120-130, 1094, 105-107, 136

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Music:
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- Sacred Scripture, reverence, verse

**Reflection Questions**

1. Let's explore the Bible in your hand, what do you see? What do you notice about it?
2. Who is the true author of the Bible and how is that possible?
3. I wonder how valuable the Holy Bible is.
4. Our Holy Bible is a beautiful gift from God. I wonder how we can best receive this gift?

Subject Matter: Bible

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time/early in the year.**

### **Explanation/Proclamation**

In the Bible God reveals himself and his plan of loving goodness.

### **Benchmarks**

#### **ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.K.ENC.03)

#### **GROW**

- Recognize the Bible as God's Word and listen to narratives from the Bible with reverence. (DOL.K.GROW.SCR.01)
- Recognize that the human person has a special relationship with God. (DOL.K.GROW.DIG.02)
- Recognize that God knows us and loves us each personally. (DOL.K.GROW.DIG.03)

#### **WITNESS**

- Realize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.K.WIT.05)

### **Sources**

- Scripture: Esp. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
  - Using 1-2 verses at a time is appropriate for this age child.
- CCC 81, 105, 1154-1155

### **Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Music
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

### **Vocabulary**

- Reverence, Sacred Scripture

### **Reflection Questions**

1. How do we listen to God's Word?
2. Do we hear Scripture at Mass?
3. Is Mass the only place where we hear Sacred Scripture?
4. I wonder, can we share God's words with others? How can we do that?

Subject Matter: Geography

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

The country of Israel is called the Holy Land. It is the place where Jesus lived.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- The Holy Land is where Jesus lived. (DOL.K.GROW.H.04)

**WITNESS**

- Realize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.K.WIT.05)

**Sources**

- Scripture: especially Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John

**Resources**

- Maps, Globe -
  - Show the children Israel (where Jesus lived) on the globe. Show the children Michigan (where we live) on the globe to demonstrate that Jesus was a real person who lived in a real time in history.
  - Show them close-up maps of the Holy Land, Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem.
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- Israel, Holy Land, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what the land where Jesus lived is like?
2. I wonder how Jesus got where he needed to go in the land where he lived?
3. I wonder what the weather is like where Jesus lived.
4. I wonder what the Holy Land looks like.

Subject Matter: Jesus

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus is the light of the world that can never be overcome by darkness. He is the Son of God, a real person Who shows us how to live.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.K.ENC.03)
- Respond to God independently and spontaneously. (DOL.K.ENC.03)

**GROW**

- Recognize Jesus as the Son of God. (DOL.K.GROW.CRE.01)
- Explore the life of Jesus as he shows us how to live. (DOL.K.GROW.DIG.01)

**WITNESS**

- Receive God's gifts gratefully. (DOL.K.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture- John 1:5, Lk 1:32, Lk 2:11,
- CCC 430, 475, 476-478

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music: -
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- Israel, obedient

**Reflection Questions**

1. Do you think Jesus might have liked to do some of the same things that you do?
2. I wonder what it was like for Mary and Joseph having Jesus as their son.
3. Who do you think taught Jesus how to pray?

Subject Matter: Dignity of the Human Person  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

### Explanation/Proclamation

God knows us and loves us each personally.

### Benchmarks

#### ENCOUNTER

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)

#### GROW

- Recognize how our behavior affects our relationship with God and with others. (DOL.K.GROW.DIG.02)
- Recognize that God knows us and loves us each personally. (DOL.K.GROW.DIG.03)

#### WITNESS

- Receive God's gifts gratefully. (DOL.K.WIT.04)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.K.WIT.05)

### Sources

- Scripture: Esp. Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John
  - Jn 10:11, Jn 10:14-15, Lk 15:4-6, Mt 18:12-13
- CCC 1700-1709
- YC 280
- [The Gospel of Life](#): Encyclical from Pope John Paul II,

### Resources

- Maps
- Art
- Online:
- Music: [Fearfully and Wonderfully Made](#) – Danielle Rose

### Vocabulary

- Dignity (YC-280), Respect

### Reflection Questions

1. I wonder why God made me.
2. How do we know we are special to God? (Scripture references above)
3. Do you think Jesus rejoices over us?
4. I wonder how I can show others that they are special to God?

- Subject Matter: Community of God / Saints

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

- We are a part of the Communion of Saints, all of those who are Baptized, living and dead.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Respond to God independently and spontaneously. (DOL.K.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Explore holiness using examples of the lives of the Saints. (DOL.K.GROW.H.01)
- Describe the community of God as those who have been baptized. (DOL.K.GROW.SAC.02)

**WITNESS**

- Realize that God wants each of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.K.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture:
  - Hebrews 12:1
- YC - 146
- CCC 946-948, 954-962

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- Saint, Patron Saint, Communion, Community

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder, are we a part of the Communion of Saints? What makes us so?
2. Do we know others who are part of the Communion of Saints?
3. Can you become a Saint?
4. Who is the Patron Saint of our Parish / School? Why were they chosen?
5. What are things that we can do to help us be like our Patron Saint?

Subject Matter: Kingdom of God Parables. (2 Week Lesson)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus tells us stories to help us understand the Kingdom of God.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us. (DOL.K.ENC.03)

**GROW**

- Explore the proclamation of the parables of the Kingdom of God. (DOL.K.GROW.SCR.03)
- Describe the community of God as those who have been baptized. (DOL.K.GROW.SAC.02)

**WITNESS**

- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.K.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture: (Present one parable per lesson. Use the reflection questions below to unpack the parables with the kids.)
  - Mt. 13:31-32 – Mustard Seed
  - Mt. 13:33 – Yeast/Leaven
- CCC 546, 2816

**Resources**

- Maps
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayer: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)
- Make 2 batches of dough, one with yeast and one without demonstrating yeast.
- Show the students mustard seeds. (Jerusalem mustard seeds if possible)

**Vocabulary**

- kingdom, parable (a story with a secret meaning), leaven

**Reflection Questions**

1. What is the Kingdom of God?
2. I wonder what role I have in the Kingdom of God.
3. I wonder how the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed or yeast.
4. When did the Kingdom of God begin? Does it have an end?

Subject Matter: The Annunciation

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

God came to earth through Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Benchmarks**

ENCOUNTER

- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.K.ENC.03)
- Participate in Liturgical Seasons. (DOL.K.ENC.04)

GROW

- Explore the Nativity and present the Incarnation as a gift to us from God. (DOL.K.GROW.SCR.02)
- Recognize the holiness of these people: Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Anna, and Simeon in the Holy Bible. (DOL.K.GROW.H.02)
- Identify the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary time. (DOL.K.GROW.02)

WITNESS

- Receive God's gifts gratefully. (DOL.K.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture –
  - Annunciation (Lk 1:26-31)
- CCC 456-460

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography – Globe, Israel, and Nazareth
- Art – Sacred Art
- Music
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- Annunciation, Grace, Ponder, Cooperate

**Reflection Questions**

1. Who is Mary?
2. How does Mary cooperate with God?
3. I wonder what it is like to be overshadowed by the Holy Spirit.
4. Mary prepares herself for the birth of Jesus, how do we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus?

Subject Matter: The Visitation

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Mary carries Jesus to Elizabeth and John.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.K.ENC.04)

**GROW**

- Explore the Nativity and present the Incarnation as a gift to us from God. (DOL.K.GROW.SCR.02)
- Recognize the holiness of these people: Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Anna, and Simeon in the Holy Bible. (DOL.K.GROW.H.02)

**WITNESS**

- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.K.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Visitation (Luke 1:39-43)
- CCC – 484, 492, 495, 717

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography – Globe, Israel, Judah
- Art – The Visitation
- Music
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- Haste, Blessed, Womb

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why did Mary go in haste?
2. How can we carry Jesus to others?

Subject Matter: Nativity of Jesus

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Christmas**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

God is with us.

**Benchmarks**

ENCOUNTER

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.K.ENC.04)

GROW

- Recognize the Bible as God's Word and listen to the narratives from the Bible with reverence. (DOL.K.GROW.SCR.01)
- Explore the Nativity and present the Incarnation as a gift to us from God. (DOL.K.GROW.SCR.02)
- Recognize Jesus as the Son of God. (DOL.K.GROW.CRE.01)
- Identify the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary time. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.02)
- Describe Mary and Joseph's obedience to God. (DOL.K.GROW.M.02)

WITNESS

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations and prayer time. (DOL.K.WIT.01)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.K.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture:
  - Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:8-15, 17-20)
  - Jn 1:14
- CCC 456-460
- Roman Missal: Eucharistic Prayer II, Preface III of the Nativity of the Lord

**Resources**

- Geography: Bethlehem,
- Art: The Nativity, Visitation of the Shepherds, Angels, Nativity set
- Music
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- Messiah, manger, host of angels

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why did the Shepherds kneel before the Baby Jesus?
2. I wonder how I can celebrate the birth of Jesus.
3. I wonder how the Church celebrates this event.

Subject Matter: Epiphany

### Suggested Liturgical Season: Epiphany

#### Explanation/Proclamation

God deserves our worship and adoration.

#### Benchmarks

##### ENCOUNTER

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.1.ENC.04)

##### GROW

- Explore the Nativity and present the Incarnation as a gift to us from God. (DOL.K.GROW.SCR.01)
- Recognize Jesus as the Son of God. (DOL.K.GROW.CRE.01)
- Identify the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary time. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.02)
- Demonstrate appropriate customs, gestures, postures in various liturgical situations (genuflection, bowing, kneeling, processions) and understand why we use them. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.05)

##### WITNESS

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations and prayer time. (DOL.K.WIT.01)
- Realize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.K.WIT.03)

#### Sources

- Scripture: Magi
  - Mt 2:1-12
- CCC 528

#### Resources

- Geography: Bethlehem, Judah
- Art: The Nativity, 3 Kings, Nativity set
- Music: [We Three Kings, How Many Kings](#) (Downhere)
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

#### Vocabulary

- Epiphany, Magi or Wise Men, Genuflect, Homage, Bow

#### Reflection Questions

1. Why did the Magi bow before the baby Jesus?
2. What do you think Mary and Joseph thought when the Magi arrived?
3. I wonder how I can celebrate Epiphany.
4. I wonder what gifts I have that I can share with others.

Subject Matter: The Presentation of Jesus

### Suggested Liturgical Season: After Christmas into Ordinary Time

#### Explanation/Proclamation

Even though Jesus was the Messiah, Mary and Joseph obeyed the law and presented Jesus in the Temple. Jesus was recognized publicly by Simeon and Anna as the Messiah, whom they had waited for prayerfully and patiently.

#### Benchmarks

##### ENCOUNTER

- Spend time in prayer, including guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.K.ENC.01)
- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.K.ENC.04)
- Respond to God independently and spontaneously. (DOL.K.ENC.06)

##### GROW

- Recognize the Bible as God's Word and listen to narratives from the Bible with reverence. (DOL.K.GROW.SCR.01)
- Recognize the holiness of these people: Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Anna, and Simeon. (DOL.K.GROW.H.02)
- Recognize that the Holy Land as a sacred place where Jesus lived. (DOL.K.GROW.H.03)
- Recognize Jesus as the Son of God. (DOL.K.GROW.CRE.01)
- Describe Mary and Joseph's obedience to God. (DOL.K.GROW.M.02)
- Understand that prayer is a gift from God. (DOL.K.GROW.PRA.01)
- Recognize that prayer is talking and listening to God. (DOL.K.GROW.PRA.01)

##### WITNESS

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations and prayer time. (DOL.K.WIT.01)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.K.WIT.03)

#### Sources

- Scripture: Presentation of Jesus
  - Lk 2:21-(skip verse 23) 33, 36-39
- CCC – 529

#### Resources

- Geography: Jerusalem in the time of Jesus
- Art: The Presentation in the Temple
- Music: Prayers – <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/DOL-Theology-Framework-FINAL-4-19-23.pdf> (page 16)

#### Vocabulary

- Presentation, Obedience, Messiah, Salvation

#### Reflection Questions

- Why did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the Temple?
- How do you think Simeon knew that Jesus was the Messiah?
- I wonder how Anna felt when she saw Jesus after praying and waiting such a long time.
- Do you think Mary and Joseph were surprised by what was said about Jesus?

Subject Matter: Morality (God Loves us)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

### Explanation/Proclamation

God loves us and we follow him because he knows and loves us.

### Benchmarks

#### ENCOUNTER

- Respond to God at different times independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.1.ENC.07)

#### GROW

- Recognize that God loves us, and we follow him because he knows and loves us. (DOL.K.GROW.M.01)
- Recognize that God knows us and loves us each personally. (DOL.K.GROW.DIG.03)

#### WITNESS

- Realize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.K.WIT.03)

### Sources

- Scripture:
  - Psalm 23: 1
  - Ps 27: 1
  - Jn 10:14 – The Good Shepherd
- CCC – 1822-1829, 1844
- YC – 309

### Resources

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

### Vocabulary

- Moral, Love

### Reflection Questions

1. Who is the Good Shepherd?
2. What makes this Shepherd good?
3. I wonder who the sheep are?
4. How can we share God's Love with others?

Subject Matter: Gestures of the Mass

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any time of the year**

### **Explanation/Proclamation**

“At Mass we worship God with our bodies as well as our words.”

### **Benchmarks**

#### **ENCOUNTER**

- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.K.ENC.05)

#### **GROW**

- Demonstrate appropriate customs, gestures, postures in various liturgical situations (genuflection, bowing, kneeling, processions) and understand why we use them. (DOL.K.GROW. SL.05)

#### **WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations and prayer time. (DOL.K.WIT.01)

### **Sources**

- CCC – 1145-1155, 1189
- YC – 75, 485
- Roman Missal, General Instructions for the Roman Missal

### **Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

### **Vocabulary**

- Epiclesis, Offering, Sign of the Cross, Genuflection, Bow

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Why do we show reverence when we enter the Church?
2. I wonder who we meet at Mass.
3. What did you see Father or others do at Mass? What stood out to you? Why?

Subject Matter: Church Tour

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any time of the year**

### Explanation/Proclamation

At church we are surrounded by many beautiful objects and materials that help us more fully celebrate the Mass and think about God.

### Benchmarks

#### ENCOUNTER

- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.K.ENC.05)

#### GROW

- Identify important parts of the sanctuary (e.g., altar, tabernacle, sanctuary lamp, baptismal font, crucifix, lectern (ambo), holy oils, etc. (DOL.1.GROW.SL.03)
- Recognize the Lectionary and explain the purpose of the Lectionary. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.03)

#### WITNESS

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations and prayer time. (DOL.K.WIT.01)

#### Sources

- CCC 1159-1162, 1179-1186
- Roman Missal, Lectionary

#### Resources

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

#### Vocabulary

- ambo, altar, tabernacle, sanctuary lamp, baptismal font, crucifix, holy oils, Sacristy, chalice, paten, presider chair, lectionary, Roman Missal, Monstrance, ect.

Be sure to plan a time that you can give the children a very thorough tour of your church, as long as they are attentive. Point out the unique elements of your church. Can be split into two sessions.

### Reflection Questions

1. Why do we show reverence when we enter the Church?
2. I wonder who we meet at Mass.
3. What did you see on our tour today?
4. What was your favorite part?

Subject Matter: Liturgy

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

The Liturgy is one big prayer made up of many prayers where we gather to pray in community.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in prayer, including guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.K.ENC.01)
- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.K.ENC.03)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.K.ENC.04)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.K.ENC.05)
- Respond to God independently and spontaneously. (DOL.K.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in a particular way. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.01)
- Identify the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.02)
- Recognize the Lectionary and explain the purpose of the Lectionary. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.03)
- Recognize how Jesus is the core of the Gospel message proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.04)
- Demonstrate appropriate customs, gestures, postures in various liturgical situations (genuflection, bowing, kneeling, processions) and understand why we use them. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.05)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations and prayer time. (DOL.K.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- CCC – 1074, 1076-1109
- YC – 166-169
- Roman Missal

**Resources**

- Maps
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers: Theology Framework (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- Mass, liturgy, Eucharist, Word of God, scripture, communion, offering, sacrifice

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what I can offer to Jesus during the Mass.
2. What is the Eucharist?
3. I wonder what God wants to say to me through the scriptures.
4. How does God want me to live in Community?

**Subject Matter: Liturgy****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus is present to us in a special way in the Holy Eucharist.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.K.ENC.03)

**GROW**

- Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in a particular way. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.01)
- Recognize how Jesus is the core of the Gospel message proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.04)
- Demonstrate appropriate customs, gestures, postures in various liturgical situations (genuflection, bowing, kneeling, processions) and understand why we use them. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.05)
- Identify and discuss the celebrations of the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. (DOL.K.GROW.SAC.01)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.1.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- CCC 1322, 1324, 1325
- Roman Missal

**Resources**

- Maps
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers - [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- Mass, liturgy, Eucharist, Word of God, scripture, communion, offering, tabernacle, sacrifice, reverence

**Reflection Questions**

1. What (who) is the Eucharist?
2. I wonder why Jesus came in the form of bread and not some other food.
3. What are some ways to show reverence to Jesus in the Eucharist?

**Subject Matter: The Resurrection of the Lord****Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter****Explanation/Proclamation**

Explore the story of Easter, Jesus' death, and *resurrection*, as Jesus' light overcoming the darkness.

Note: The focus of this lesson should be the Last Supper and the institution of the Holy Eucharist. The kindergarten child is too young for the focus to be on the Crucifixion. They will receive this in later years as is appropriate for their age. For now, focus on the love of Jesus for His Apostles and us in giving us His Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.K.ENC.03)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.K.ENC.04)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.K.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Explore the story of Easter, Jesus' death, and *resurrection*, as Jesus' light overcoming the darkness. (DOL.K.GROW.SCR.04)
- Recognize the Holy Land as a sacred place where Jesus lived. (DOL.K.GROW.H.04)
- Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in a particular way. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.01)
- Identify the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.02)
- Explore the life of Jesus, as He shows us how to live. (DOL.K.GROW.DIG.01)
- Recognize that the human person has a special relationship with God. (DOL.K.GROW.DIG.02)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations and prayer time. (DOL.K.WIT.01)
- Receive God's gifts gratefully. (DOL.K.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture: The Resurrection of Jesus (Mt 28:1-10, Lk 24:1-12)
- CCC – 638-658
- YC – 104-105

**Resources**

Geography: Jerusalem in the time of Jesus: <https://www.pinterest.fr/pin/761952830697125620/>

Art:

Music: –

Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- Resurrection, Tomb, Angel

**Reflection Questions**

1. How many days were there between Jesus' death and resurrection?
2. I wonder what the women thought when they came to the tomb and found it empty.
3. Who were the two men in dazzling garments?
4. What did they say?

Subject Matter: Pentecost

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter into Ordinary Time**  
**Explanation/Proclamation**

Pentecost is the birthday of the Catholic Church. We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, given to the world.

**Benchmarks**

ENCOUNTER

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.K.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.K.ENC.04)
- Respond to God independently and spontaneously. (DOL.K.ENC.06)

GROW

- Recognize the Bible as God's Word and listen to narratives from the Bible with reverence. (DOL.K.GROW.SCR.01)
- Recognize that local priests have a special role in the Church. (DOL.K.GROW.H.03)
- Recognize the Holy Land as a sacred place where Jesus lived. (DOL.K.GROW.H.04)
- Identify the three persons of the Holy Trinity. (DOL.K.GROW.CRE.03)
- Identify the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time (and Pentecost). (DOL.K.GROW.SL.02)

WITNESS

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations and prayer time. (DOL.K.WIT.01)
- Realize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.K.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture: Pentecost (Acts 2:1-8)
- CCC – 731-733
- YC – 118-120

**Resources**

- Geography: Map of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus showing the Cenacle.
- Art: [St. Peter's Basilica](#)
- Music: -
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- Pentecost, descend, Tongues of fire, witness, courageous.

**Reflection Questions**

1. Where were the Apostles and Mary?
2. What happened?
3. Do you think they were scared?
4. What incredible things happened?
5. Were the Apostles scared anymore?
6. What ways do you think the Holy Spirit can help us?
7. How is the Holy Spirit a gift to us?

Subject Matter: Church

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

The Church is made up of the baptized who are called to follow Jesus. Priests help people follow Jesus. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to help everyone follow him.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.K.ENC.03)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.K.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Recognize that local priests have a special role in the Church. (DOL.K.GROW.H.03)
- Identify the three persons of the Holy Trinity. (DOL.K.GROW.CRE.03)
- Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in a particular way. (DOL.K.GROW.SL.01)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations and prayer time. (DOL.K.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt. 16:18
- CCC – 777-780, 787-788, 797
- YC – 121-128

**Resources**

- Maps
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayer: [Theology Framework](#) (page 16)

**Vocabulary**

- church, bishop, priest, Holy Spirit

**Reflection Questions**

- What is the name of our church?
- Who is our pastor? What do you think he does?
- How does the Holy Spirit help our church?
- How does the Holy Spirit help our priests?

*Parish Lesson Guides*

# **First Grade**

*Diocese of Lansing 2024*

**Subject Matter: The Annunciation**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

God came to earth through Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in a particular place and time.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.1.ENC.03)
- Participate in Liturgical Seasons. (DOL.1.ENC.04)

**GROW**

- Explore the Infancy Narratives. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.06)
- Ponder and describe Mary as chosen by God and as a collaborator with God and a model for all Christians. (DOL.1.GROW.H.01)
- Recognize God wants to fill us with his joy now and forever. (DOL.1.GROW.CRE.01)

**WITNESS**

- Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship. (DOL.1.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture – Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38)
- CCC 456-460
- YC – 76

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography – Globe, Israel, and Nazareth Art – Sacred Art
- Music
- Prayers – Hail Mary

**Vocabulary**

- Annunciation, Hail, Grace, Ponder, Overshadowed

**Reflection Questions**

1. Who is Mary?
2. How does Mary collaborate with God?
3. I wonder what it is like to be overshadowed by the Holy Spirit.
4. Mary prepares herself for the birth of Jesus, how do we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus?

**Subject Matter: The Visitation**

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Mary goes in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.1.ENC.04)

**GROW**

- Explore the Infancy Narratives. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.06)
- Ponder and describe Mary as chosen by God and as a collaborator with God and a model for all Christians. (DOL.1.GROW.H.01)
- Recognize God wants to fill us with his joy now and forever. (DOL.1.GROW.CRE.01)
- Recognize that God calls us to make a gift of ourselves in love. (DOL.1.GROW.M.05)

**WITNESS**

- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.1.WIT.05)

**Sources**

- Scripture – Visitation (Luke 1:39-56) CCC – 717
- YC – 116

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography – Globe, Israel, Judah Art – The Visitation
- Music
- Prayers – Hail Mary

**Vocabulary**

- Haste, Blessed, Womb

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why did Mary go in haste?
2. How can we carry Jesus to others?
3. I wonder why the baby leapt in the womb of Elizabeth.
4. What does it mean to be blessed?

**Subject Matter: Nativity of Jesus**

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Christmas**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

God came to earth and is present among His people.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.1.ENC.04)

**GROW**

- Explore the Infancy Narratives. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.06)
- Recognize that God wants to fill us with his joy now and forever. (DOL.1.GROW.CR.01)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.1.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture: Birth of Jesus (Mt 1:18-25; Lk 2:1-20) CCC 456-460
- YC – 76

**Resources**

- Geography: Bethlehem,
- Art: The Nativity, Visitation of the Shepherds, Angels, Nativity set Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Decree, census, Messiah, manger, host of angels

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why did the Shepherds kneel before the Baby Jesus?
2. I wonder how I can celebrate the birth of Jesus.
3. I wonder how the Church celebrates this event.
4. When do we kneel before Jesus?

**Subject Matter: Epiphany**

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Christmas**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

God deserves our worship and adoration. (DOL.GROW.SL.02)

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.1.ENC.04)

**GROW**

- Explore the Infancy Narratives. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.06)
- Recognize that God wants to fill us with his joy now and forever. (DOL.1.GROW.CR.01)

**WITNESS**

- Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship. (DOL.1.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture: Birth of Jesus (Mt 2:1-11)
- CCC 528

**Resources**

- Geography: Bethlehem, Judah
- Art: The Nativity, 3 Kings, Nativity set
- Music: We Three Kings, [How Many Kings \(Down here\)](#)
- Prayers – Hail Mary

**Vocabulary**

- Magi, Wise Men, Genuflect, Homage, Bow

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why did the Magi bow before the Baby Jesus?
2. I wonder how I can celebrate Epiphany.
3. I wonder what gifts I have that I can share with others.

**Subject Matter: Baptism of the Lord**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Christmas into Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus' Baptism reveals how the Holy Spirit prepares us for mission.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.1.ENC.04)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy.

**GROW**

- God has a mission for each of us. (DOL.GROW.SL.02)
- Explore the Infancy Narratives. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.06)

**WITNESS**

- Serve others through participation in school and parish community projects. (DOL.1.WIT.02)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.1.WIT.05)

**Sources**

- Scripture: Baptism of Jesus (Mt 3:13-17, Mk 1:9-11, Lk 3:21-22)
- CCC 533-537, 701, 1223-1225
- YC – 87

**Resources**

- Geography: Jordan River
- Art: [Baptism of Jesus](#)
- Music: Hail to the Lord's Anointed, On Jordan's Bank
- Prayers – First Luminous Mystery of the Rosary; The Baptism of Jesus

**Vocabulary**

- Baptize, Mission

**Reflection Questions**

1. Who was John the Baptist?
2. I wonder how the Church celebrates Baptism. (DOL.1.WIT.01)
3. What are some signs or symbols of baptism?
4. What is mission?
5. I wonder what our mission is.

Subject Matter: The Passion of the Lord Suggested  
**Liturgical Season: Holy Week/Triduum**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

By dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus saves us from our sins.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.1.ENC.04)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy.

**GROW**

- Explore the Passion Narratives. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.09)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.1.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture: The Passion of Jesus (Mt 21:1-11, Mk 11:1-10)
- CCC 559-560
- YC – 94-95

**Resources**

- Geography:
- Art:
- Music:
- Prayers: Practice venerating the cross

**Vocabulary**

- Palms, Passover, Hosanna, Suffer, Crucifix, gesture.

**Reflection Questions**

1. What did the people shout to Jesus when he rode into Jerusalem on a Donkey?
2. What are some signs or symbols of Palm Sunday?
3. I wonder how the Church celebrates the events of Jesus' Passion.
4. What are some gestures we see during Holy Week?

**Subject Matter: The Passion of the Lord**

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Holy Week/Triduum**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus is the Lamb of God Who takes away our sins. (DOL.GROW.SL.01/02)

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.1.ENC.04)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy.

**GROW**

- Explore the Passion Narratives. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.09)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.1.WIT.01)
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect toward others. (DOL.1.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture: The Passion of Jesus (Mt 21:1-11, Mk 11:1-10) CCC 559-560

**Resources**

- Geography: [Israel at the Time of Christ](#)
- Art:
- Music:
- Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Passover, Suffer, Crucifix, Tomb

**Reflection Questions**

1. What did Jesus ask his followers to do in the garden on Holy Thursday?
2. What are some actions we show during Holy Week?

**Subject Matter: The Resurrection of the Lord****Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter****Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus rose from the dead to open the gates of heaven for us. (DOL.GROW.H.04)

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons (DOL.1.ENC.04)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.1.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Explore the Resurrection Narratives. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.10)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.1.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - The Resurrection of Jesus (Lk 24:1-12, Mt 28:1-10) CCC 638-658
- YC 104-108

**Resources**

- Geography: [Jerusalem in the time of Jesus](#) & [Israel in the time of Jesus](#)
- Art:
- Music:
- Prayers: Nicene Creed

**Vocabulary**

- Resurrection, Burial, Descend

**Reflection Questions**

1. How many days were there between Jesus' death and resurrection?
2. I wonder how the Church celebrates the events of Jesus' resurrection.
3. I wonder how we should celebrate the true meaning of Easter.

**Subject Matter: Pentecost****Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter into Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

The Holy Spirit is our helper. (DOL.1.GROW.CRE.02)

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.1.ENC.04)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.1.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Explore the Pentecost Narrative. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.03)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.1.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)
- CCC 731-732
- YC 118

**Resources**

- Geography: [Jerusalem in the time of Jesus](#) & [Israel in the time of Jesus](#)
- Art: [St. Peters Holy Spirit Dove](#)
- Music:
- Prayers – Come Holy Spirit

**Vocabulary**

- Pentecost, Descend,

**Reflection Questions**

1. How many days were there between Jesus' resurrection and Pentecost?
2. I wonder how the Holy Spirit helps me.
3. What did the Holy Spirit do for the Apostles?

**Subject Matter: Prayer****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

Prayer is a way to communicate with God.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.1.ENC.03)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.1.ENC.05)
- Participate in prayers learned in previous grades. Learn new prayers appropriate to age. (DOL.1.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Understand Prayer as Communion with God. (DOL.1.GROW.PRA.01)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate courtesy and respect toward others. (DOL.1.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt. 6:9-13
- CCC 2558-2565
- YC – 469-470

**Resources**

- Geography: [Jerusalem in the time of Jesus](#) & [Israel in the time of Jesus](#)
- Art:
- Music: -
- Prayers – Our Father

**Vocabulary**

- Prayer, Amen,

**Reflection Questions**

1. What are some different types of prayers?
2. I wonder how my prayer helps others.

Subject Matter: Bible

### Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time

#### Explanation/Proclamation

The Holy Bible is one narrative that tells the story of God's creation. This one book consists of many books organized into the Old Testament and the New Testament.

#### Benchmarks

##### ENCOUNTER

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.1.ENC.03)

##### GROW

- Recognize that the Bible is one narrative consisting of many books organized into the Old Testament and New Testament, and into various sections. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.01)
- Describe God as the author of Sacred Scripture because He inspired its human authors. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.03)

##### WITNESS

- Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship. (DOL.1.WIT.04)

#### Sources

- Scripture- looking at the Holy Bible as a whole and exploring it.
- CCC 112, 120-130, 1094, 105-107, 136
- YC – 14-19

#### Resources

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Prayers

#### Vocabulary

- Old Testament, New Testament, narrative, inspired, Sacred Scripture

#### Reflection Questions

1. Let's explore the Bible in your hand, what do you see? What do you notice about it?
2. What are the two main sections of our Bible?
3. Who is the true author of the Bible and how is that possible?
4. Our Holy Bible is a beautiful gift from God.
5. I wonder how we can best receive this gift.

Subject Matter: Bible

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

The Gospels are special books in the Holy Bible that tell us about Jesus. They are written by the four evangelists, who were inspired by God. We hear a reading from one of the Gospels at every Mass.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.1.ENC.03)

**GROW**

- Name the four evangelists and identify them as writers of the Gospels. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.02)
- Listen to narratives from the Bible with reverence, understanding the Bible as God's Word. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.04)
- Recognize the readings at Mass as Sacred Scripture. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.11)

**WITNESS**

- Realize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.1.WIT.05)

**Sources**

- Scripture: Esp. Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John
- CCC 81, 105, 1154-1155
- YC – 14-19
- Book of the Gospels, Lectionary

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Evangelist, Gospel, Reverence, Sacred Scripture, Liturgy of the Word

**Reflection Questions**

1. Who are the Four Evangelists?
2. What is a gospel?
3. How do we listen to God's Word?
4. When do we hear the Gospels at Mass?
5. What special actions surround the reading of the Gospel.
6. Is Mass the only place where we hear Sacred Scripture?
7. I wonder, can we be evangelists. How can we do that.

Subject Matter: Geography

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

The Holy Land is where Jesus was born, lived, worked, died, and rose from the dead.  
(DOL.1.GROW.H.04)

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Recognize that the Bible is one narrative consisting of many books organized into the Old Testament and New Testament, and into various sections. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.01)
- The Holy Land is where Jesus was born, lived, worked, died, and rose from the dead. (DOL.1.GROW.H.04)

**WITNESS**

- Realize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.1.WIT.05)

**Sources**

- Scripture: Esp. Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art
- Online:
- Music

**Vocabulary**

- Israel, Holy Land, Jerusalem, Bethlehem

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what the land where Jesus lived is like.
2. I wonder how Jesus got where he needed to go in the land where he lived.
3. I wonder what the weather is like where Jesus lived.
4. I wonder what makes this land holy.

Subject Matter: Creation, Redemption, Parousia

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

God created all we needed as a gift. Jesus came to redeem us. He will come again to make all things new in His Parousia. (CCC 1001) This is salvation history.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.1.ENC.03)

**GROW**

- Express that creation is a gift from our loving God. (DOL.1.GROW.CRE.03)
- Recognize that there is a beginning to all created things. (DOL.1.GROW.CRE.04)
- We live now in the time of redemption, until Jesus comes again to make all things new. (Creation, Redemption, Parousia)

**WITNESS**

- Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship. (DOL.1.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture- see scripture references in CCC.
  - Genesis 1:1 – 2:3
- CCC 279, 282, 290-292, 295, 296, 1042-1044, 1200, 1214, 2174
- YC 41-48 (Creation), 72, 104, 108, 111, 112
- *Laudato Si'*- Pope Francis' document on Creation

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Create, gift, Creation, Redemption, Parousia, Second Coming

**Reflection Questions**

1. What are some gifts that we have?
2. I wonder who these gifts came from.
3. How is all of creation a gift?
4. What happened at Creation?
5. What happened at Redemption?
6. What will happen at Parousia?

Subject Matter: Dignity of the Human Person

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity because each person is created in God's image and after His likeness and deserves to be treated with dignity.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Recognize that human beings are uniquely made by God, male and female and it is our role to care for creation. (DOL.1.GROW.DIG.01)
- Recognize how our behavior affects our relationship with God and with others. (DOL.1.GROW.DIG.02)
- Recognize that God knows us and loves us each personally. (DOL.1.GROW.DIG.03)
- Explain how Jesus' command to "love one another" applies to their own lives and school situations (DOL.1.GROW.DIG.04)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate courtesy and respect toward others. (DOL.1.WIT.03)
- Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship. (DOL.1.WIT.04)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.1.WIT.05)

**Sources**

- Scripture: Esp. Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John
- The Gospel of Life; [Encyclical from Pope John Paul II](#)
- YC – 58, 80, 438

**Resources**

- Maps
- Art
- Online:
- Music: [Fearfully and Wonderfully Made](#)

**Vocabulary**

- dignity, created, respect, image, likeness.

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder why God made me.
2. I wonder how I can show others that they are special to God.
3. How can I treat others with dignity and respect.

Subject Matter: Community of God/ Saints

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Baptism makes us members of the Communion of Saints.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Describe the Community of God as those baptized, past, present, and future. (DOL.1.GROW.CRE.06)
- Retell simple stories of the saints' lives and identify saints who are personally connected to our families and the school community. (DOL.1.GROW.H.02)

**WITNESS**

- Serve others through participation in school and parish community projects. (DOL.1.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Hebrews 12:1
- CCC 946-948, 954-962. 1331

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Saint, Patron Saint, Communion of Saints, Community

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder, are we part of the Communion of Saints? What makes us so.
2. Do we know others who are as well?
3. Can you become a Saint?
4. Who is the Patron Saint of our Parish / School? Why were they chosen?
5. What are things that we can do to help us be like our Patron Saint?

Subject Matter: Church Tour

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any time of the year.**

### **Explanation/Proclamation**

In the church building, we are surrounded by many beautiful objects that help us more fully celebrate the Mass.

### **Benchmarks**

#### **ENCOUNTER**

- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.1.ENC.05)

#### **GROW**

- Identify important parts of the sanctuary (e.g., altar, tabernacle, sanctuary lamp, baptismal font, crucifix, lectern (ambo), holy oils, etc. (DOL.1.GROW. SL.03)

#### **WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.1.WIT.01)

### **Sources**

- CCC 1159-1162, 1179-1186
- Roman Missal, Lectionary

### **Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

### **Vocabulary**

- Anything that is unique to your church, ambo, altar, tabernacle, sanctuary lamp, baptismal font, crucifix, lectern, holy oils, Sacristy, chalice, patten, presider chair, lectionary, Roman Missal, Monstrance, ect

(be sure to plan a time that you can give the children a very thorough tour of your church, you may wish to invite someone to lead it if needed).

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Why/how do we show reverence when we enter the Church?
2. I wonder who we meet at Mass.
3. What did you see? What stood out to you? Why?

Subject Matter: Kingdom of God Parables. (2 Week Lesson)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus tells us stories to help us understand the Kingdom of God

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.1.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.1.ENC.03)

**GROW**

- Explore Kingdom of God parables. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.8)
- Describe the community of God as those baptized, past, present, and future. (DOL.1.GROW.CRE.06)

**WITNESS**

- Serve others through participation in school and parish community projects. (DOL.1.WIT.02)
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect toward others. (DOL.1.WIT.03)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.1.WIT.05)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- Mt. 13:18-50 - Sower, Weeds, Mustard Seed, Yeast, Treasure in the Field, Pearl of Great Price, Net Thrown into the Sea
- CCC 546, 2816

**Resources**

- Maps
- Art
- Online:
- Music

**Vocabulary**

- Role, Kingdom, Treasure, Parable

**Reflection Questions**

1. What is the Kingdom of God?
2. I wonder what role I have in the Kingdom of God.
3. I wonder how the kingdom of God is like (a mustard seed, yeast, treasure, pearl, etc....choose 1 or 2 parables to discuss each week.)
4. How am I part of God's kingdom?
5. How can I help His kingdom grow?
6. Does the kingdom of God have an end?

- Subject Matter: Morality Parables (2 Week Lesson)

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

#### **Explanation/Proclamation**

God calls us to live a moral life as a gift of love.

#### **Benchmarks**

##### **ENCOUNTER**

- Respond to God at different times independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.1.ENC.07).

##### **GROW**

- Explore Moral parables. (DOL.1.GROW.SCR.07)
- Recognize that we are free to choose the good. (DOL.1.GROW.M.02)
- Recognize that God gives us rules because he loves us and we follow them because we love him. (DOL.1.GROW.M.03)
- Recognize that God calls us to make a gift of ourselves in love. (DOL.1.GROW.M.05)

##### **WITNESS**

- Demonstrate courtesy and respect toward others. (DOL.1.WIT.03)
- Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship. (DOL.1.WIT.04)

#### **Sources**

- Scripture
  - Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37; Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-32
- CCC 546, 1439, 2463, 2631, 1822, 1939, 1718, 1730-1731, 1950, 1972, 2087

#### **Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

#### **Vocabulary**

- Moral, Parable, Morality, Prodigal, Samaritan

#### **Reflection Questions**

1. What is a parable and why did Jesus teach with parables?
2. What secret does Jesus want to share with us in this parable?
3. Do we have rules at home? Why do we have rules?
4. Why does God give us rules?
5. I wonder where we find love in this parable.
6. How can we share our love with others?

- Subject Matter: Liturgy

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

#### **Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus is present at the Mass in a special way through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

#### **Benchmarks**

##### **ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.1.ENC.01)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.1.ENC.03)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.1.ENC.04)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.1.ENC.05)

##### **GROW**

- Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in a special way through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. (DOL.1.GROW.SL.01)
- Identify signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy: sign of the Cross, genuflecting, Epiclesis (calling down of the Holy Spirit), Lavabo (washing of hands), preparation of the chalice, offering, sign of peace. (DOL.1.GROW.SL.02)
- Identify important parts of the sanctuary (e.g., altar, tabernacle, sanctuary lamp, baptismal font, crucifix, lectern (ambo), holy oils, etc.). (DOL.1.GROW.SL.03)
- Explain the parts of the Mass and how they fit into the order of the liturgy. (DOL.1.GROW.SL.04)

##### **WITNESS**

- DOL.1.WIT.01 Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations

##### **Sources**

- Scripture
- CCC 1140, 1154

##### **Resources**

- Maps
- Art
- Online:
- Music

##### **Vocabulary**

- Mass, liturgy, Eucharist, Word of God, scripture, communion, offering, sacrifice

##### **Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what I can offer to Jesus during the Mass.
2. What is the Eucharist?
3. I wonder what God wants to say to me through the scriptures.
4. How does God want me to live in Communion?

Subject Matter: Liturgy

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus is present to us in the Holy Eucharist.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- DOL.1.ENC.01 Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- DOL.1.ENC.05 Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy.

**GROW**

- DOL.1.GROW.SL.01 Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in a special way through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- DOL.1.GROW.SAC.01 Recognize that Jesus is present in the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist.
- DOL.1.GROW.SAC.03 Identify the sacrament of the Eucharist as a way of remembering Jesus' love for us
- DOL.1.GROW.PRA.03 Genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, as both a gesture and a form of prayer.

**WITNESS**

- DOL.1.WIT.01 Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations

**Sources**

- 

**Resources**

- Maps
- Art
- Online:
- Music

**Vocabulary**

- Mass, liturgy, Eucharist, Word of God, scripture, communion, offering, tabernacle, sacrifice, reverence

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder why Jesus came in the form of bread and not some other food?
2. What (who) is the Eucharist?
3. What are some ways to show reverence to Jesus in the Eucharist?
4. How does God want me to live in Communion?

Subject Matter: Church

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Before Jesus died, he started a Church and gave his authority to bishops and priests

**Benchmarks**

ENCOUNTER

- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.1.ENC.04)

GROW

- Describe that Jesus shares his authority with priests and Bishops. (DOL.1.GROW.H.03)

WITNESS

- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.1.WIT.05)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt. 16:18,
- CCC 811, 812

**Resources**

- Maps
- Art
- Online:
- Music

**Vocabulary**

- Church, Authority, Bishop, Priest

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what a bishop does.
2. I wonder what a priest does.
3. Who are the people who make the Church?
4. Is the church a building or a group of people?

*Parish Lesson Guides*

# **Second Grade**

*Diocese of Lansing 2024*



Subject Matter: Prayer as Communion

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time - early in the year**

### **Explanation/Proclamation**

Prayer is turning the heart toward God. When a person prays, he enters into a living relationship with God. (YC 469 - CCC 2558-2565)

### **Benchmarks**

#### **ENCOUNTER**

- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.2.ENC.04)
- Experience wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Respond to God independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.2.ENC.09)

#### **GROW**

- Understand that prayer is communion with God. (DOL.2.GROW.PRA.01)
- Learn prayers of the Church. (DOL.2.GROW.PRA.03)
- Describe God as the author of Sacred Scripture because He inspired its human authors. (DOL.2.GROW.SCR.03)

#### **WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.01)
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect toward others. (DOL.2.WIT.04)

### **Sources**

- Scripture (encourage children to choose verses to use in prayer; choose a psalm)
- CCC 2558 – 2565
- YouCat 469-527 (Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, Ignatius Press)

### **Resources**

- Art
- Music: (choose a song that is prayerful)
- Prayers to know by Heart: [DOL Theology Framework](#)

### **Vocabulary**

- Communion, Scripture, Relationship, Awe

### **Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how God can speak to us.
2. Do you think God speaks to each of us in the same way.
3. I wonder if you have something you would like to say to God.
4. Do you have a favorite prayer?

**Subject Matter: Bible****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time - Early in the year****Explanation/Proclamation/Proclamation**

The Holy Bible is made up of many books, divided into two sections, the Old and New testaments. The Church has organized each book into chapters and verses.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience opportunities for wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.04)

**GROW**

- Recognize that the Bible is one narrative consisting of many books organized into the Old Testament and New Testament, and into sections that include books, chapters, and verses. (DOL.2.SCR.01)
- Recognize that Pentateuch and Torah both refer to the first five books of the Old Testament. (DOL.2.SCR.02)
- Describe God as the author of Sacred Scripture because He inspired its human authors. (DOL.2.SCR.03)
- Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in the Scriptures, in the person of the priest, in the community gathered to worship, and in the Eucharist. (DOL.2.SL.02)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.02)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- CCC 120, 134-141 (In brief)

**Resources**

- Art - Bible illuminations
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Wisdom, Prophetic, Revelation, Testament, Biblical genres: Law, Wisdom, Prophetic, Historical, Epistles, Gospels,

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how many books are in the Holy Bible.
2. Who wrote the Holy Bible?
3. I wonder why they wrote the Holy Bible.
4. How can the Holy Bible help us?

**Subject Matter: Creation, Redemption, Parousia****Suggested Liturgical Season: Early in the Religious Ed year****Explanation/Proclamation**

Since before the beginning of time, God has been present and working in our lives and that of the whole world. Through His plan of Creation, Redemption and Parousia, He has invited ALL people of ALL times and places to collaborate with Him in bringing about the Kingdom of God. This plan is our Salvation History.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.2.ENC.01)
- Experience opportunities for wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.2.ENC.06)
- Respond to God independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.2.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Recognize that there is a beginning of all things (Creation); we live now in the time of redemption (Redemption) until Jesus comes again to make all things new (Parousia). (DOL.2.GROW.CRE.03)

**WITNESS**

- Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship. (DOL.2.WIT.05)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Gen 1:1, Gen 1:27 (Creation)
  - Lk 2:4-14, Lk 23:33-34 (Redemption)
  - Lk 24:5-7, 1Cor 15:28 (Parousia)

**Resources**

- Art
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Creation, Redemption, The Fall, Parousia, Salvation History

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how long our Salvation History is.
2. I wonder why God created all that He did before we even arrived on the earth.
3. When do you think the time of Redemption began?
4. Do you think the time of Redemption is over?
5. How can we work with God to help bring about Parousia?

**Subject Matter: Community of God/Communion of Saints**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Before Advent or in Easter**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

The Church is the Community of God (the Body of Christ) and is made up of all the baptized; those on earth and in heaven.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.2.ENC.01)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Examine their conscience based on the TWO GREAT Commandments and the teachings of Jesus. (DOL.2.ENC.07)
- Respond to God independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.2.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Describe the Church as a praying and worshipping community of believers. (DOL.2.GROW.CRE.04)
- Describe the community of God as those baptized past, present, and future. (DOL.2.GROW.CRE.06)

**WITNESS**

- Serve others through participation in school and parish community projects. (DOL.2.WIT.03)
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect toward others. (DOL.2.WIT.04)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - John 15:1-11
- CCC 946-948
- YC-146

**Resources**

- Art
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Community, Church

**Reflection Questions**

1. Who is included in the Community of God?
2. Is this community just for the living?
3. How can we be connected to those who have died?
4. How can those who have died be connected to us?

**Subject Matter: Dignity of the Human Person****Suggested Liturgical Season: Before Advent or anytime in Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

A person is set apart from the rest of God's creation. A person can use "reason" and "free will" to choose for or against God's will.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Examine their conscience based on the Two Great Commandments and the teachings of Jesus. (DOL.2.ENC.07)

**GROW**

- Explain right relationship. Describe what it takes to be a friend and have a friend. (DOL.2.GROW.DIG.02)
- Recognition that God knows us and loves us each personally. (DOL.2.GROW.DIG.03)
- Recognize that God calls us to make a gift of ourselves in love. (DOL.2.GROW.DIG.04)

**WITNESS**

- Serve others through participation in school and parish community projects. (DOL.2.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- CCC 339, 343, 356

**Resources**

- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Dignity, Understanding, Will, Person

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what it means to have dignity.
2. Does everyone have dignity?
3. How do we honor the dignity of others?
4. Where does our dignity come from?
5. How do we honor our own dignity?

**Subject Matter: Kingdom Parables (2 Lessons)**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus tells us stories with a secret to discover, so that we can understand the kingdom of God.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience opportunities for wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Respond to God independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.2.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Explore Kingdom of God parables. (DOL.2.GROW.SCR.08)

**WITNESS**

- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Hidden Treasure - Mt 13:44
  - Mustard Seed - Mt 13:31-32
  - Pearl of Great Price - Mk 15:43-46
  - Leaven/Yeast - Mt 13:33
  - Sprouting/Growing Seed - Mk 4:26-29
- CCC 546

**Resources**

- Art
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Parable

**Reflection Questions**

1. What is a parable?
2. What is the Kingdom of God?
3. How is the Kingdom of God like... (mustard seed, grain, etc.)
4. I wonder what role I have in the Kingdom of God.
5. When did the Kingdom of God begin? (CCC 541/YC 89)

**Subject Matter: Annunciation****Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent****Explanation/Proclamation**

God sent an angel to ask Mary to participate in his plan of salvation for the whole world. Mary, who loves God with all she has, said, "yes".

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience opportunities for wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Participate in the Liturgical Seasons. (DOL.2.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Explore the Infancy Narratives. (DOL.2.GROW.SCR.06)
- Identify the role Mary plays in the faith life of the Church. (DOL.2.GROW.CRE.01)

**WITNESS**

- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Luke 1:26-38
- CCC 721, 973
- YC - 117
- Roman Missal
- Advent and Christmas Liturgies

**Resources**

Maps/Geography: Maps of Israel at the time of Jesus

Art

Music

Prayers: Hail Mary

**Vocabulary**

- Annunciation, Salvation

**Reflection Questions**

- How did the angel greet Mary?
- I wonder how Mary felt when the angel told her she would be the mother of Jesus.
- What did Mary say?
- Does God invite us to help in His plan of salvation too?

**Subject Matter: Visitation****Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent****Explanation/Proclamation**

Mary, our model of discipleship, went in haste to be with her cousin Elizabeth in service, bringing our Lord to her. This portrays for us, how we are to carry Jesus to others, in haste.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience opportunities for wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Discover Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.04)
- Participate in the liturgical seasons. (DOL.2.ENC.05)
- Respond to God independently, spontaneously and as a group. (DOL.2.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Explore the Infancy Narratives. (DOL.2.GROW.SCR.06)
- Identify the Liturgical Calendar by the seasons of the year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary Time, and Holy Days of Obligation. (DOL.2.GROW.SL.01)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.02)
- Serve others through participation in school and parish community projects. (DOL.2.WIT.03)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Lk 1:39-56
- CCC 777
- Roman Missal
- Advent and Christmas Liturgies

**Resources**

- Maps
- Art
- Music
- Prayers: Hail Mary

**Vocabulary**

- Haste, Leaped, Disciple

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder why Mary went in haste.
2. Do you recognize any of the words that Elizabeth said? (Lk 1:42) Have we heard these words before?
3. I wonder how Elizabeth knew that Mary was the Mother of Jesus? (Lk 1:43)
4. I wonder why the baby leaped.

**Subject Matter: Christmas - The Birth of Jesus****Suggested Liturgical Season: Late Advent (last class before Christmas break)****Explanation/Proclamation**

Good news of great joy has been told to the shepherds by the message of an angel. This good news is not just for them but for ALL of us!

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience opportunities for wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.04)
- Participate in Liturgical Seasons. (DOL.2.ENC.05)
- Respond to God independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.2.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Explore the Infancy Narratives. (DOL.2.GROW.SCR.06)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.02)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Birth of Jesus (Mt 1:18-25; Lk 2:1-20);
- CCC 525-526
- Roman Missal
- Advent and Christmas Liturgies

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Music
- Prayers: “Glory to God in the highest and peace to people of good will.”

**Vocabulary**

- Nativity, Shepherds, Ponder, Host (of angels)

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what the shepherds thought when they saw the angel.
2. I wonder why they were afraid.
3. I wonder, what is the Good News?
4. I wonder what they thought when they saw baby Jesus, just as the angel told them.
5. What did they do when they left?
6. What did Mary do?
7. Can we ponder/reflect on these things in our heart too?

**Subject Matter: Epiphany****Suggested Liturgical Season: Epiphany or soon after Christmas.****Explanation/Proclamation**

Magi from far away came to worship Jesus and bring Him gifts.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience opportunities for wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Participate in the liturgical seasons. (DOL.2.ENC.05)
- Respond to God independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.2.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Explore the Infancy Narratives. (DOL.2.GROW.SCR.06)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.02)
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect toward others. (DOL.2.WIT.04)
- Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship. (DOL.2.WIT.05)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 2:1-12
- CCC
- Roman Missal
- Advent & Christmas Liturgies

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Epiphany, Adoration, Magi, Messiah, Homage, Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

**Reflection Questions**

1. Who were the Magi looking for?
2. What kind of gifts did they bring Jesus?
3. Are those gifts what most people would give a baby?
4. What do we have to offer Jesus?
5. I wonder if Herod really wanted to pay homage to Jesus.
6. What did the Magi do after they left Jesus?

**Subject Matter: Baptism****Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter Season****Explanation/Proclamation**

The sacrament of Baptism makes us Children of God, fills us with God's Grace and gives us the light of Christ.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience opportunities for wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.2.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Explore the signs, symbols, and gestures of Baptism, Reconciliation, and the Eucharist as ways that Christ shares his life with us. (DOL.2.GROW.SAC.02)
- Describe the community of God as those baptized, past, present, and future. (DOL.2.GROW.CRE.06)
- Describe the vestments, sacred objects, and various colors used in the celebration of the Liturgy. (DOL.2.GROW.SL.06)
- Recognize that God knows us and loves us each personally. (DOL.2.GROW.DIG.03)
- Define grace as God's life in us; we are blessed that he shares himself with us. (DOL.2.GROW.M.05)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- CCC 1131, 1253,
- YC- 151,193, 194-202
- Roman Missal
- The Rite of Baptism

**Resources**

- Art
- Prayers: Prayers in the Rite of Baptism

**Vocabulary**

- Grace, Sacred Chrism, Anoint, Oil of the Catechumen, Original Sin, Salvation

**Reflection Questions**

1. When a child is baptized, he/she receives many gifts. What are these gifts?
2. I wonder why these gifts are important.
3. I wonder why the priest blesses the parents, as well as the child?

**Subject Matter: Church Tour****Suggested Liturgical Season: Anytime in the Liturgical year****Explanation/Proclamation**

Our church has many beautiful items, each has meaning and purpose.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.2.ENC.06)
- Participate in the Liturgical seasons. (DOL.2.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Describe the vestments, sacred objects, and various colors used in the celebration of the liturgy. (DOL.2.GROW.SL.05)
- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2. GROW.WIT.02)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.02)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)

**Sources**

- Environment and Art in Catholic Worship- Bishop' Committee on the Liturgy (NCCB, Washington, DC, 1978)

**Resources**

- Art: Statuary in your parish, Art in your parish

**Vocabulary**

- Narthex, Baptismal Font, Paschal Candle, Confessional, Nave, Pews, Sanctuary, Ambo, Altar Table, Tabernacle, Tabernacle light, Holy water font, Vestments, Sacred vessels, Sacristy

**Reflection Questions**

1. What did you find most interesting?
2. What did you find most beautiful?
3. Did anything surprise you?
4. I wonder if all churches look the same.
5. I wonder what things you find in every Catholic Church.

**Subject Matter: The Mass****Suggested Liturgical Season: Any****Explanation/Proclamation**

The Mass is the most important prayer of the Church. It is divided into two parts, made up of many smaller prayers, each with a purpose and deep meaning.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Participate in the liturgical seasons. (DOL.2.ENC.05)
- Experience signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.2.ENC.06)
- Participate in prayers learned in previous grades. Learning new prayers appropriate to age. (DOL.2.ENC.08)
- Respond to God independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.2.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Recognize the Mass as one prayer with two parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. (DOL.2.GROW.SL.03)
- Understand that Catholic Christians are obligated to go to Sunday Mass to worship God and receive Jesus in both Sacred Scripture and the Eucharist. (DOL.2.GROW.SL.04)
- Describe the vestments, sacred objects, and various colors used in the celebration of the Liturgy. (DOL.2.GROW.SL.05)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.02)
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect toward others. (DOL.2.WIT.04)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- CCC 2041-2043; 1069-1070
- YC - 167-169, 192, 212
- Roman Missal
- Mass readings, Liturgical prayers

**Resources**

- Music: Parish hymnal or song book, Recordings of music
- Prayers: Prayers of the Church, Prayers prayed by your parish such as the St Michael prayer.

**Vocabulary**

- Liturgy, Mass, Signs, Symbols, Gestures, Celebration, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist

**Reflection Questions**

1. How can we participate in the Mass?
2. I wonder how the Liturgy of the Word can help us to know God better.
3. What are some of the gestures that we see in the Mass?
4. What is the miracle that we can witness at every Mass?
5. Who do we receive in the Liturgy of the Eucharist?

**Subject Matter: Morality (2 Week Lesson)****Suggested Liturgical Season: Anytime, but especially during Lent.****Explanation/Proclamation**

We are called to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Express sorrow for their sins through a prayer of contrition. (DOL.2.ENC.01)
- Examine their conscience based on the Two Great Commandments and the teachings of Jesus. (DOL.2.ENC.07)
- Respond to God independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.2.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Explore the Moral parables. (DOL.2.GROW.SCR.07)
- Define grace as God's life in us; we are blessed that he shares himself with us. (DOL.2.GROW.M.05)
- Recognize that temptation can turn us away from God. (DOL.2.GROW.DIG.04)
- Define that sin is choosing to disobey God in thought, word, deed, or action. (DOL.2.GROW.M.02)
- Recognize that sin separates us from God and from others. (DOL.2.GROW.M.03)

**WITNESS**

- Serve others through participation in school and parish community projects. (DOL.2.WIT.03)
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect toward others. (DOL.2.WIT.04)
- Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian Stewardship. (DOL.2.WIT.05)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Luke 10:27, Luke 10:30-37, Luke 6:27, 35, Mt 19:19, Mt 22:39, Mk 12:31
- CCC - 2420
- YC - 288, 295,297,299-302
- Roman Missal, Ritual Books
- Magisterial Docs

**Resources**

- Prayers: Act of Contrition
- Holy Bible
- Ten Commandments

**Vocabulary**

- Conscience, Contrition, Sin, Sorrow, Grace, Steward

**Reflection Questions**

1. How do we know what God wants us to do?
2. What should we do when we know we have offended a friend?
3. What should we do when we know we have offended God?
4. What does the sacrament of Reconciliation do for us?
5. Who is our neighbor?

Subject Matter: Passion Narratives (2 Week Lesson)

### Suggested Liturgical Season: Lent

#### Explanation/Proclamation

Out of love, Jesus voluntarily gives up His life for the salvation of ALL people of all times.

#### Benchmarks

##### ENCOUNTER

- Experience opportunities for wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Respond to God independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.2.ENC.09)

##### GROW

- Explore the Paschal Mystery Narratives. (DOL.2.GROW.SCR.09)
- Describe how Jesus modeled forgiveness. (DOL.2.GROW.DIG.01)
- Explore the signs, symbols, and gestures of Baptism, Reconciliation, and the Eucharist as ways that Christ shares his life with us. (DOL.2.GROW.SAC.02)

##### WITNESS

- Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship. (DOL.2.WIT.05)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)
- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.02)

#### Sources

- Scripture
  - Entrance into Jerusalem - Lk19:29-38
  - The Last Supper - Mt 26:17-35, Mk 14:12-31, Lk 22:7-34, Jn 13:1-38
  - Gethsemane - Mt 26:36-56, Mk 14:32-52, Lk 22:39-53, Jn 18:1-11
  - Jesus before Caiaphas - Mt 26:57-75, Mk 14:53-72, Lk 22: 54-71, Jn 18:12-27
  - Jesus before Pilate (1st time) - Mt 27:11-14, Mk 15:1-5, Lk 23:1-7, Jn 18:28-38
  - Jesus before Herod - Lk 23:8-12
  - Jesus before Pilate (2nd time) - Mt 27:15-31, Mk 15:16-20, Lk 23:13-25, Jn 18:39-40 and Jn 19:1-16
  - Crucifixion - Mt 27:32-66, Mk 15:20-47, Lk 23:26-56, Jn 19:17-42
- CCC 619-623, 629
- YC 94-95
- Roman Missal

#### Resources

- Prayers: "We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.", Sign of the Cross

#### Vocabulary

- Paschal, Paschal Mystery, Salvation, Passover

#### Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus was arrested?
2. I wonder why Jesus' friends all ran away.
3. Do you think the Disciples were afraid?
4. Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? Was his dying the end of His life? What happened next?
5. How was this a gift to us?

Subject Matter: Eucharist

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter**

#### **Explanation/Proclamation**

Christ shares His life with us in the Eucharist.

#### **Benchmarks**

##### **ENCOUNTER**

- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us through prayer, liturgy, and scripture.

##### **GROW**

- Recognize and ponder the moment of consecration in the Liturgy when the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus. (DOL.2.GROW.SAC.04)
- Explore the signs, symbols, and gestures of Baptism, Reconciliation, and the Eucharist as ways that Christ shares his life with us. (Only cover the Eucharist at this time.) (DOL.2.GROW.SAC.02)

##### **WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during the liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.02)

#### **Sources**

- Scripture
  - The Last Supper - Mt 26:17-35, Mk 14:12-31, Lk 22:7-34, Jn 13:1-38
- CCC 323-1326, 1329-1336, 1341
- YC - 99
- Roman Missal - prayers of consecration

#### **Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Music
- Prayers

#### **Vocabulary**

- Eucharist, Epiclesis, Consecration, Passover, Covenant, Altar

#### **Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder why Jesus wanted to celebrate this special meal with His disciples.
2. I wonder what they thought about Jesus' words at the Last Supper.
3. I wonder how the Mass is like at the Last Supper.
4. When does the consecration happen?
5. How can we receive the Eucharist with reverence?
6. How should receiving the Eucharist affect us?

**Subject Matter: Resurrection****Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter****Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus rose from the dead, after dying on the Cross. Through this act he shows that he is greater than sin and death. We can share in this gift too.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.2.ENC.01)
- Experience opportunities for wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.2.ENC.05)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.2.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Explore the Resurrection Narratives. (DOL.2.GROW.SCR.10)
- Recognize that God knows us and loves us each personally. (DOL.2.GROW.DIG.03)
- Recognize that God calls us to make a gift of ourselves in love. (DOL.2.GROW.DIG.04)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.02)
- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mk 16:1-8, Mt 28:1-8, Jn 20:2-9
- CCC 639-640
- YC - 104, 108
- Roman Missal

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Resurrection, Tomb, Anoint.

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what the women thought when they got to the tomb and the stone had been rolled away.
2. Do you think they were afraid when they saw the angel?
3. I wonder what they thought happened to Jesus when they saw He was gone?
4. Do you think they realized that He had risen from the dead?
5. What would you think if you had been there?

**Subject Matter: Pentecost**

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter, as close to Pentecost as possible.**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church when the Holy Spirit shared the gift of faith with the disciples. The Holy Spirit helps us share our gifts with the Church.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Participate in Liturgical Seasons. (DOL.2.ENC.05)
- Experience opportunities for wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.2.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Recognize stewardship as the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor. (DOL.2.GROW.CRE.02)

**WITNESS**

- Recognize that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus. (DOL.2.WIT.06)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Acts 1:1-12; Acts 2:1-13
- CCC 857 - 862
- Roman Missal, Ritual Books
- Magisterial Docs

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography - Maps of the city of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus
- Art -
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Pentecost, Disciple, Holy Spirit,

**Reflection Questions**

1. How did the Holy Spirit come to the disciples?
2. What did the Holy Spirit give the disciples?
3. How are disciples called to share their gifts with others? I wonder, are we disciples too?
4. Why were so many people from other places in Jerusalem at that time?

*Parish Lesson Guides*

# **Third Grade**

*Diocese of Lansing 2024*

Subject Matter: Saints

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any**

### **Explanation/Proclamation**

Saints are individuals who cooperated with God by accepting the gifts he offered them and seeking to live like Him. They continue to pray for us in Heaven and so we ask them to pray for us.

### **Benchmarks**

#### **ENCOUNTER**

- Respond to God independently, spontaneously, and as a group. (DOL.2.ENC.09)

#### **GROW**

- Explore and retell simple stories of the lives of the Saints, with particular focus on Saints who have a strong devotion to the Eucharist and Reconciliation. (DOL.2.GROW.H.01)
- Retell story of personal patron Saint and the patron Saint (or special event connected to the name of the parish. ( DOL.2.GROW.H.02)
- Recognize the communion of Saints as collaborators with God. (DOL.2.GROW.H.03)

#### **WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations. (DOL.2.WIT.02)

### **Sources**

- Scripture
  - Luke 1:38.
- CCC 947, 1447
- Roman Missal, Ritual Books
- Magisterial Docs

### **Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

### **Vocabulary**

- Saint, Patron Saint, Intercession, Petition, Devotion

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Is God calling me to be a Saint?
2. Do we know the names of any Saints?
3. I wonder how they became Saints.
4. Do you think we can learn how to be a Saint from them?
5. Are there different ways to pray with the Saints?

**Subject Matter: Prayer (Part One)****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time (Fall)****Explanation/Proclamation**

Prayer, whether memorized or spontaneous, puts us in intimate union with God and makes Him present to us.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources and meditate on the gift received. (DOL.3.ENC.02)
- Experience the gift of wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.3.ENC.07)
- Explore the invitation from Jesus to be in a relationship with him through prayer and all aspects of our lives. (DOL.3.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Understand that prayer is communion with God. (DOL.3.PRA.01)
- Participate in prayers learned in previous grades. Learning new prayers appropriate to age. (DOL.3.PRA.03)

**WITNESS****Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 6:5-15; Jn 15:1-11
- CCC 2558-2565,2688

**Resources**

- Art
- Music
- Prayers to know by heart (DOL): [Theology Framework](#)
- Other Prayers (DRE's/Catechist's discretion)

**Vocabulary**

- Prayer, Communion, Gift, Relationship

**Reflection Questions**

1. What does it mean to say God is present with us in prayer?
2. How is God present with us in prayer?
3. I wonder what happens in our hearts when we pray.
4. I wonder how prayer helps us remain on the vine.
5. How is prayer like a gift?

Subject Matter: Prayer (Part Two)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time (Fall)**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

Every type of Christian prayer leads us into communion with God.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- View [p.44 of the Diocesan Curriculum Framework](#) for third grade.

**GROW**

- Identify the different types of prayer: blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, contemplative, and praise (DOL.3.PRA.02)
- Build a simple individual or classroom prayer service for the liturgical seasons. (DOL.3.PRA.04)

**WITNESS**

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**Sources**

- Scripture
- CCC 2560-2565, 2626-2649, 2705-2708,
- The Roman Missal

**Resources**

- Art
- Music
- Prayers to know by heart (DOL) [Theology Framework](#)
- Other Prayers (DRE's/Catechist's discretion)

**Vocabulary**

- Blessing, Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving, Contemplative, Praise

**Reflection Questions**

1. How can we show love to God through prayer?
2. How can we show love to others through prayer?
3. I wonder how the saints are present when we pray.
4. How do we practice [type of prayer] in our lives?
5. What are examples of [type of prayer]?
6. How do we adore God?

**Subject Matter: The Bible**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time (Fall)**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

The Bible is many books but only one story - God's love for us.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER:**

- Listen to God in Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources and meditate on the gift received. (DOL.3.ENC.02)
- Experience the gift of wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.3.ENC.07)

**GROW**

- Recognize that the Bible is a one narrative consisting of many books organized into the Old Testament and New Testament, and into sections that include books, chapters, and verses. (DOL.3.GROW.SCR.01)
- Categorize the books of the Bible as 46 books in the Old Testament (Law, History, Wisdom, Prophets) and 27 books in the New Testament. (DOL.3.GROW.SCR.02)
- Find Scripture passages and reference them by citing book, chapter, and verse. (DOL.3.GROW.SCR.04)

**WITNESS**

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**Sources**

- Scripture:
- CCC.120-137, 2705-2708
- [Dei Verbum](#)

**Resources (n.b. Please use all Catholic sources/websites.)**

Online: [Brother Francis \(formed.org\)](http://Brother Francis (formed.org))

**Vocabulary**

- Testament, Verse, Law (also known as Pentateuch/Torah), History, Wisdom, Prophet, Gospel, Acts, Epistle (Letter), Revelation

**Reflection Questions**

1. When does the New Testament begin?
2. How did God write the Bible?
3. How do we find a verse in the Bible?

**Subject Matter: Creation****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time (Fall)****Explanation/Proclamation:**

God made us in his image and likeness and gave us a purpose in His kingdom.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER:**

- Experience the gift of wonder and awe through prayer and scripture. (DOL.3.ENC.07)
- Explore the invitation from Jesus to be in a relationship with him through prayer and all aspects of our lives. (DOL.3.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Identify the source of one's human dignity and value as being created in the image and likeness of God. (DOL.3.GROW.DIG.01)
- Recognize that God knows and loves us each personally and we are a part of God's plan of salvation. (DOL.3.GROW.DIG.04)
- Recognize that God gives us the choice to see the world and others as gift. (DOL.3.GROW.M.01)

**WITNESS**

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**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Genesis 1-2
- CCC 279-324

**Resources**

- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Creation, Image & Likeness, Dignity, Salvation

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what the image and likeness of God is.
2. I wonder what is our worth in God's eyes.
3. Is God still creating?
4. How can we thank God for the gift of our lives?
5. How are others a gift to us?
6. I wonder, what was God's purpose in making me.

**Subject Matter: The Church**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time (Fall)**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

We all have a role in the Body of Christ, the Church.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER:**

- Approach Mass with a willingness to participate, knowing that God offers us a gift in each liturgy. (DOL.3.ENC.06)
- Explore the invitation from Jesus to be in a relationship with him through prayer and all aspects of our lives. (DOL.3.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Explain the roles of the pope, bishops, priests, deacons, the consecrated, and laity. (DOL.3.GROW.H.02)

**WITNESS**

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**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 16:13-20; Lk 6:12-16; Jn 10:1-21; 1 Cor 12:12-31
- CCC 1536,1700-1705
- Roman Missal
- Example: “With **N.** our Pope, **N.** our Bishop...”

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography - (Caesarea Philippi, Corinth)
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Pope, Bishop, Priest, Deacon, Consecrated Life, Laity, Vocation, Body of Christ.

**Reflection Questions**

1. How do we hear the voice of God?
2. How do we know we are being called to something?
3. “I wonder how we can help others live out their callings?”
4. How does each role fulfill a need of the entire Church?
5. “I wonder what it is like to be a/the [role].”

**Subject Matter: Saints****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time (Fall)****Explanation/Proclamation:**

A saint is someone who fulfilled the call of God for their life and is with Him in Heaven.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER:**

- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.3.ENC.08)

**GROW**

- Describe right relationship with others in our lives, using the lives of the saints. (DOL.3.GROW.DIG.02)
- Recognize that God knows and loves us each personally and we are a part of God's plan of salvation. (DOL.3.GROW.DIG.04)
- Explore the perfect example of the Christian life that we see in the life of Mary. (DOL.3.GROW.CRE.04)

**WITNESS**

- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.3.ENC.08)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Lk 1:26-38; Revelation 7:9-17
- CCC 867, 954-962
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers Example-Litany of Saints

**Vocabulary**

- Saint, Intercession, Model, Imitate, Holy.

**Reflection Questions**

1. What is a saint? ("I wonder, how is God calling you to be a saint?")
2. What is God calling me to do right now?
3. What makes the saints special?
4. What does it mean to be holy?

Subject Matter: All Souls

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time (Fall)**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

Those who have died are also a part of God's Kingdom. On All Souls Day, we help those who have died by praying for them.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Participate in Liturgical Seasons (DOL.3.ENC.10)

**GROW**

- Understand All Souls Day and why we pray for the dead. (DOL.3.GROW.SL.04)
- Recognize that entering into heaven means a profound unity with God and harmony of their own soul and the body. (DOL.3.GROW.M.03)
- Identify the different types of prayer: blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, contemplative, and praise. (DOL.3.GROW.PRA.02)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.3.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Eph 2:19-22; 2 Maccabees 12:44-45
- CCC 1030,1032
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books

**Vocabulary**

- Soul, Purgatory\* (Define as the process God uses to make those who have died ready for Heaven. Sometimes when people die, they are not yet perfect and sinless. In Purgatory, we are made perfect and sinless. This is called "purification." Everyone in Purgatory will go to Heaven when they are ready.)
  - Note for DRE: It is important to explain this in a non-frightening, age-appropriate way.

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what it means to be perfect.
2. How do we pray for those who have died?
3. Why is it important to pray for those who have died?
4. I wonder what Heaven will be like.

**Subject Matter: Kingdom Parables (2 Week Lesson)****Suggested Liturgical Season: Any****Explanation/Proclamation:**

Jesus tells us stories to help us understand the Kingdom of God and our role in that Kingdom.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER:**

- Discover that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us and that through prayer, liturgy, and Scripture we can be very close to Jesus. (DOL.1.ENC.03)

**GROW**

- Explore Bible narratives focused on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, including the parables, in relation to the liturgical year. (DOL.2.GROW.SCR.03)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.1.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture (Choose 2-3 parables per lesson from the following list:)
  - The Kingdom of God is like a...
  - Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-32)
  - Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45-46)
  - Yeast (Matthew 13:33)
  - Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)
  - Growing Seed (Mark 4:26-29)

**Resources**

- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers
- Demonstrations (show mustard seeds, yeast demonstrations, sprouting seeds etc.)

**Vocabulary**

- Parable; Mustard Seed; Yeast; Merchant; Kingdom

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how the Kingdom of God is like a?.....grain, mustard seed, pearl.
2. I wonder what the Kingdom of God is?
3. I wonder what role I have in the Kingdom of God?
4. I wonder when did the Kingdom begin? I wonder if it has an end?

**Subject Matter: Moral Parables (2 Week Lesson)****Suggested Liturgical Season: Any****Explanation/Proclamation:**

Communion with Jesus gives our souls life. If we get lost, Jesus will always come to find us.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources and meditate on the gift received. (DOL.3.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Categorize the books of the Bible as 46 books in the Old Testament (Law, History, Wisdom, Prophets) and 27 books in the New Testament. (DOL.3.GROW.SCR.02)

**WITNESS****Sources**

- Scripture
  - Jn 15:1-11 (Vine and the Branches)
  - Lk 15: 11-32 (Prodigal Son/Forgiving Father)
- CCC 1431-1432, 1439, 1465
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books Rite of Penance, esp. Prayer of Absolution, Penitential Rite and Fraction Rite (Roman Missal).

**Resources**

- Art: Visually explain the vine and branches image.
- Online:
- Music: ["I am the vine" "Vine and the Branches" \(In most hymnals\).](#)
- Prayer: Ritual Books, Confiteor, Act of Contrition, Prayer of Absolution.

**Vocabulary**

- Absolution, Contrition, Inheritance, Abide/Remain, Fruitful.

**Reflection Question**

1. Vine and Branches Questions:
  - I wonder who the parts of the vine represent?
  - I wonder why Jesus says the word abide/remain so much? What does it mean?
  - What does it mean to be fruitful?
  - How do we abide/remain with Jesus?
2. Prodigal Son/Forgiving Father Questions:
  - Why do you think the son asked for his inheritance? What did the son do with the money (He wasted it)?
  - What made the son want to come home?
  - What did the Father do when he saw his son coming home? Why do you think he did that?
  - Why was the older brother upset?
  - Who do the people in the story represent?
  - I wonder, how can we come home to the Father when we get lost?
3. Synthesis question:
  - How do Baptism, Reconciliation, and the Eucharist connect us to the vine?

**Subject Matter: Liturgical Calendar****Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent****Explanation/Proclamation:**

We participate in and celebrate the life of Jesus throughout the liturgical year.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience the gift of wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.3.ENC.06)
- Participate in Liturgical Seasons. (DOL.3.ENC.10)

**GROW**

- Explore the Liturgical Calendar by identifying the seasons of the year: Advent. (DOL.3.GROW.SL.02)
- Build a simple individual or classroom prayer service for the liturgical seasons. (DOL.3.GROW.PRA.04)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.3.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Psalm 111, Daniel 3:28-68
- CCC 1163-1173, 1194-1195
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books, Lectionary

**Resources**

- Calendars (12 month and Liturgical).
- Seasonal Decorations for Prayer Table/Space.

**Vocabulary**

- Liturgical Season, Advent, Christmas Season, Ordinary Time, Lent, Holy Week, Easter Season, Pentecost.

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder why the Church uses its own special calendar.
2. I wonder how each liturgical season is a gift from God.
3. How is each Mass a celebration?
4. How does the Church participate in liturgical seasons?
5. How can we participate in liturgical seasons?

**Subject Matter: Infancy Narratives (Part One - Annunciation and Visitation).**

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

God comes to earth through the Holy Spirit in cooperation with Mary.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- DOL.3.ENC.02-.03

**GROW**

- DOL.3.GROW.SCR.03 and .05
- DOL.3.GROW.CRE.04
- DOL.3.GROW.PRA.03

**WITNESS**

- DOL.3.WIT.02

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Lk 1:26-38(Annunciation); 39-56 (Visitation)
- CCC 490-501, 523, 973, 969, 2617, 2674-2677
- Magisterial Docs: Redemptoris Mater, 8-19.

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers: Hail Mary

**Vocabulary**

- Annunciation, Overshadow (filled), Visitation, Haste, Full of Grace, Womb, Handmaid.

**Reflection Questions (Annunciation):**

1. I wonder what it is like to receive a visit from an angel?
2. What does it mean to be favored by God?
3. What would it be like to be overshadowed by the Holy Spirit?
4. What happens to Mary when she is overshadowed by the Holy Spirit?
5. When have we been overshadowed by the Holy Spirit? (Baptism.)
6. How does Mary respond to the angel?
7. What had God done for Elizabeth as well?

**Reflection Questions (Visitation):**

1. I wonder, why was Mary in a hurry?
2. What happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth? I wonder why? I wonder what happens in our hearts when God is near?

**Subject Matter: Infancy Narratives (Part Two - Shepherds and Nativity)**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent/Christmas**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

God came to earth as a humble baby to save the world.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources and meditate on the gift received. (DOL.3.ENC.02)
- Contemplate different ways to respond to Jesus' gift of salvation. (We need to develop an explanation for teachers of how varied responses can be.) (DOL.3.ENC.03)

**GROW**

- See part 1 above

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives, recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.3.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 1:18-25, Lk 2:1-20
- CCC 57-460, 461-464

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Incarnation, Glory, Legions of Angels, Manger, Good News, Messiah

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what the events of that day were like.
2. I wonder why God was born in such a poor place.
3. (I wonder) why did God come to Earth? (*To save us, to show us God loves us, to be our model of holiness, to make us holy like him.*)
4. I wonder what it was like for the shepherds to see the glory of the Lord all around them. How can we see the glory of the Lord?
5. How can we give praise to God?

**Subject Matter: Epiphany****Suggested Liturgical Season: Christmas****Explanation/Proclamation:**

The magi show us that Jesus came to be the king for all of humanity and how we should all adore our king by offering him our lives as a gift.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (DOL.3.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources and meditate on the gift received. (DOL.3.ENC.02)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.3.ENC.10)

**GROW**

- Explain how the Scripture narratives are relevant in daily life. (DOL.3.GROW.SCR.05)
- Explore the Liturgical Calendar by identifying the seasons of the year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter and Ordinary time and the Holy Days of Obligation. (DOL.3.GROW.SL.02)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.3.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 2:1-12
- CCC 486, 526, 528
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Adoration, Magi, Epiphany, Messiah, Homage, Prostrate, Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh.

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how the magi recognized that the baby Jesus was God.
2. How can we give Jesus homage? How do we show reverence when Jesus is near?
3. What gifts would we offer the baby Jesus?

**Subject Matter: Rite of Baptism****Suggested Liturgical Season: Any (Preferably near the Baptism of the Lord.)****Explanation/Proclamation:**

We receive many gifts from God during each moment of the Rite of Baptism. Each symbol represents in some way how we are brought into communion with God and the Church.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER**

- Explore the invitation from Jesus to be in a relationship with him through prayer and all aspects of our lives. (DOL.3.ENC.09)
- Experience the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy. (DOL.3.ENC.11)

**GROW**

- Understand that in Baptism one receives the life of God and is adopted as a Son/Daughter of God. (DOL.3.GROW.SAC.01)

**WITNESS**

- Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of vocation, one who responds generously to the call of God (DOL.3.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 3:13-17, Mk 1:1-11, Mt 28:19, Jn 15:1-11
- CCC 1275-1284, 1223-1225.
- Rite of Baptism
- Magisterial Docs: Lumen Gentium (Chapter 1).

**Resources (Please, insofar as possible, prioritize taking the children to the worship space to see the places and signs associated with baptism.)**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers
- Church Space/Items (Baptistry, Ambry, Holy Water Fonts, White Garments, Candles, etc.)

**Vocabulary**

- Baptism, Chrism Oil, Oil of Catechumens, Anoint, Paschal Candle, Font, Ambry, etc. Identify the symbols of the Rite and their significance.

**Reflection Questions**

1. (I wonder) how is each of the signs of Baptism a gift to us?
2. What does it mean to say we are made “new” in baptism?
3. When we are baptized, we become children of God. I wonder what it means to be a child of God.
4. What responsibilities come along with the gift of baptism?

**Subject Matter: The Trinity**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

We worship one God who has revealed himself in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER**

- Experience the gift of wonder and awe through prayer and scripture. (DOL.3.ENC.07)

**GROW**

- Recognize the nature of the Trinity as three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (DOL.3.GROW.CRE.01)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation and all people. (DOL.3.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 28:19
- CCC 261-267
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books

**Resources**

- Art/Icons (Especially Trinity Symbols/Analogies - Shamrock, Candle, Water, etc.)
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers (Especially the Creed.)

**Vocabulary**

- Trinity, Mystery, Ponder

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder where or how we see each member of the Trinity (in the world, in scripture, in Mass, in each Sacrament, in our lives...)?
2. Each member of the Trinity is God, but there is only one God. I wonder what each member teaches us about God.
3. I wonder how each person of the Trinity is with us.

**Subject Matter: Reconciliation****Suggested Liturgical Season: Any/Lent****Explanation/Proclamation:**

The sacrament of Reconciliation is where we ask for and receive God's gift of forgiveness and are restored (reconciled) to friendship with God.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER**

- Express sorrow for their sins through a prayer of contrition. (DOL.3.ENC.05)
- Explore the invitation from Jesus to be in a relationship with him through prayer and all aspects of our lives. (DOL.3.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Recognize the importance of regular participation in the sacrament of Reconciliation. (DOL.3.GROW.SAC.02)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.3.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 18:10-14; Jn 10:1-5,11-18; Mt 18:10-14 (Proclaim these passages together.); Mt 22:34-40, Psalm 51
- CCC 1440-1449, 1485-1498.
- Rite of Penance

**Resources**

- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers (Act of Contrition, Confiteor, Kyrie, Prayer of Absolution.)

**Vocabulary**

- Examination of Conscience, Confession, Penance, Reconciliation, Absolution, Contrition, Sin, Mercy.

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why is it important that we take care of our relationship with God?
2. What does it mean to be lost from the Good Shepherd?
3. How do we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd?
4. How does the priest help us receive God's forgiveness?
5. How do we respond to the gift of absolution?

**Subject Matter: Passion Narratives (Part One - “Entry to Jerusalem” through “Jesus is arrested.”)**

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any/Lent**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

Jesus enters Jerusalem to accomplish God’s plan for salvation.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate different ways to respond to Jesus’ gift of salvation. (DOL.3.ENC.03)
- Explore the invitation from Jesus to be in a relationship with him through prayer and all aspects of our lives. (DOL.3.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Explore Bible narratives focused on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, including the parables, in relation to the liturgical year. (DOL.3.GROW.SCR.03)
- Recognize that God knows and loves us each personally and we are a part of God’s plan of salvation. (DOL.3.GROW.DIG.04)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.3.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - (Entry to Jerusalem) Mt 21:1-11; (Last Supper - Jesus Washes the Apostles’ Feet) Jn 13:1-11; (Last Supper - Institution of the Eucharist) Mt 26:20-35; (Agony in the Garden) Mt 26:36-46; (Jesus is Arrested) Mt 26:47-56.
- CCC 610-611, 621
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Hosanna, Passover, Betray, Covenant, Communion, Eucharist, Agony.

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why was the crowd shouting “Hosanna!”?
2. Why does Jesus wash the Apostles’ feet?
3. Where else do we hear the words that Jesus said at the Last Supper?
4. How can we ponder the mystery of Jesus giving us all of himself through his Body and Blood?
5. What does it mean to betray Jesus?

**Subject Matter: Passion Narratives (Part Two - Passion and Death)**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Lent**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

Jesus loves us so much he laid down his life on the cross to forgive our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Explore the invitation from Jesus to be in a relationship with him through prayer and all aspects of our lives. (DOL.3.ENC.09)

**GROW**

- Explore Bible narratives focused on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, including the parables, in relation to the liturgical year. (DOL.3.GROW.SCR.03)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.3.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Death of Christ Mt 27:32-66,
  - Good Shepherd Jn 10:1-16
- CCC 609,613-623
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books

**Resources**

- Maps/Jerusalem
- Art (Historical artwork, Children's original artwork, etc.)
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers (Sign of the Cross)

**Vocabulary**

- Passion, Resurrection, Crucified/Crucifixion, Reverence, Good Friday, Tomb.

**Reflection Questions**

1. How can we show reverence for the gift of himself Jesus makes on the cross?
2. Why does Jesus die on the cross? (Sins)
3. How do we respond to the gift Jesus makes of himself?
4. How does the Church celebrate Christ's gift on the Cross?
  - i.e. Stations of the Cross, Good Friday, Cross in Church, Sacrifice of the Mass, etc.

*Note: During the reflection portion of the lesson, take time as a class to prayerfully ponder the crucifixion. The Stations of the Cross, the Sorrowful Mysteries or Lectio Divina are excellent entry points for students to contemplate the mystery at hand. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an ideal opportunity for the students to quietly and spontaneously respond to Christ's gift.*

## **Subject Matter: Passion Narratives (Part Three - Resurrection and Ascension)**

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter**

#### **Explanation/Proclamation:**

By rising on the third day, Jesus conquered death for all of humanity. By ascending into Heaven, Jesus opened the gates of eternal/everlasting life.

#### **Benchmark**

##### **ENCOUNTER**

Express sorrow for their sins through a prayer of contrition. (DOL.3.ENC.05)

##### **GROW**

Recognize the importance of regular participation in the sacrament of Reconciliation. (DOL.3.GROW.SAC.02)

##### **WITNESS**

Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.3.WIT.04)

#### **Sources**

- Scripture
  - Resurrection (*Choose 1 or 2*) Mt 28:1-10; Mk 16:1-8 ;Lk 24:1-12; Jn 20:1-10
  - The Ascension Acts 1:6-11
- CCC 638-658, 659-667.
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books: Blessing of the Paschal Candle

#### **Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

#### **Vocabulary**

- Resurrection, Ascension, Alleluia, Glory/Glorious, Hope, Easter, Paschal Candle, Eternal Life, Heaven.

#### **Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what it would have been like to see Jesus on the day he rose from the dead.
2. How is Jesus still present with us after the Ascension?
3. I wonder what Heaven will be like.
4. How does the Church celebrate Easter?
5. How does the Church celebrate the Resurrection?
6. I wonder how we can celebrate the Resurrection.

**Subject Matter: Pentecost and the Holy Spirit****Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter****Explanation/Proclamation:**

Jesus gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit who lives inside us and guides God's holy Church.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources and meditate on the gift received. (DOL.3.ENC.02)
- Experience the gift of wonder and awe through prayer and Scripture. (DOL.3.ENC.07)

**GROW**

- Recognize the nature of the Trinity as three persons in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (DOL.3.GROW.CRE.01)
- Understand that Prayer is communion with God. (DOL.3.GROW.PRA.01)

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives, recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.3.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Acts 2:1-13, 42-47.
- CCC 687-690, 731-747, 1197, 2670-2672.
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books
- Epiclesis

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Pentecost, Tongues of Fire, Tongues (Languages), Holy Spirit

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder why we need the Holy Spirit. (To know God more fully.)
2. How do we receive the Holy Spirit?
3. I wonder how the Holy Spirit is present with us.
4. I wonder how we respond to the gift of the Holy Spirit.
5. How does the Holy Spirit guide us? (Suggestion - Give a personal witness.)

Subject Matter: Liturgy

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

In the Liturgy, we become participants in Jesus' work of redemption.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Approach Mass with a willingness to participate, knowing that God offers us a gift in each liturgy. (DOL.3.ENC.06)
- Participate in liturgical seasons. (DOL.3.ENC.10)

**GROW**

- Distinguish differences between the holy sacrifice of the Mass and other Liturgical celebrations. (DOL.3.GROW.SL.01)
- Identify the different types of prayer: blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, contemplative, and praise. (DOL.3.GOW.PRA.02)

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives, recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.3.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Jn 2:41-52
- CCC 1069
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books
- Magisterial Docs: Sacrosanctum Concilium, 5-13 (esp. #10).

**Resources**

- Worship Space/Church Tour
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Liturgy, Mass, Celebration (Liturgical), Eucharistic Adoration, Monstrance, Worship, Sanctuary, Nave.

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how God is present in His liturgies.
2. I wonder how each person of the Trinity is present in the Liturgy.
3. How do we participate in the Liturgy?
4. How is the Liturgy a celebration? How is each liturgy a gift to us?

**Subject Matter: The Eucharist**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

At Mass, the bread and wine become Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity by the power of the Holy Spirit through the words of the priest.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.3.ENC.01) (if possible).
- Approach Mass with a willingness to participate, knowing that God offers us a gift in each liturgy. (DOL.3.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Recognize the importance of regular participation in the sacrament of Eucharist. (DOL.3.GROW.SAC.03)
- Understand that Prayer is communion with God. (DOL.3.GROW.PRA.01)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.3.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Jn 6:53-58; Jn 15:1-11
- CCC 1406-1419
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books

**Resources**

- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers (Suggested Adoration time after lesson)

**Vocabulary**

- Consecration, Communion, Words of institution, Host, Chalice, Paten, Eucharist, In persona Christi, Soul & Divinity, Amen.

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how bread and wine become Jesus' body and blood.
2. I wonder why Jesus wants us to receive Him in Communion.
3. I wonder how we know that the bread and wine really become Jesus. (Faith.)
4. How can we show reverence for Jesus in the Eucharist?
5. I wonder why we say "Amen" when we receive His Body and Blood?
6. I wonder how the Eucharist is a gift to us.

**Subject Matter: Mary****Suggested Liturgical Season: Any****Explanation/Proclamation:**

Blessed Mary is the mother of Jesus and of the Church. She perfectly shows us what it means to be a disciple.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER**

- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.3.ENC.08)

**GROW**

- Explore Marian Apparition: Fatima and Lourdes. (DOL.3.GROW.H.01)
- Explore the perfect example of the Christian life that we see in the life of Mary. (DOL.3.GROW.CRE.04)
- Identify the different types of prayer: blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, contemplative, and praise. (DOL.3.GROW.PRA.02) (esp. Intercession)

**WITNESS**

- Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of vocation, one who responds generously to the call of God. (DOL.3.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Lk 1:26-38
- CCC 484-511, 2634
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art:
- Online:
- Music: (Marian Hymns)
- Prayers (Hail Mary, Rosary)

**Vocabulary**

- Marian, Mother of God, Blessed, Apparition, Fatima, Lourdes, Marian, Mother of God, Blessed, Apparition, Fatima, Lourdes, Intercession, Grace

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder what it means to be full of grace.
2. I wonder why God chose Mary.
3. Why did the angel call Mary “blessed among women?”
4. How is Mary a mother to us? How does Mary help us?
5. How can we show love for Mary?
6. I wonder why Mary has chosen to appear all over the world.
7. How does Mary lead us to Jesus?

*Parish Lesson Guides*

# **Fourth Grade**

*Diocese of Lansing 2024*

**Subject Matter: Prayer (2 Week Lesson)****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

There are many forms of prayer. We can pray on our own or in community.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.4.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in meditation (teacher-guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.4.ENC.02)
- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.4.ENC.03)
- Participate in Marian devotions. (DOL.4.ENC.04)
- Meditate on the meaning of the Our Father. (DOL.4.ENC.07)

**GROW**

- Participate in various forms of art as prayer (e.g., icons, stained glass, praise and worship, Gregorian Chant, Taize prayer). (DOL.4.GROW.PRA.01)
- Utilize the different types of prayer (blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise.) (DOL.4.GROW.PRA.02)
- Build a communal prayer service for the liturgical seasons. (DOL.4.GROW.PRA.05)

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives and recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.4.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Matthew 6:9-13 for the Our Father, but there are many other verses on prayer if you search for them.
- CCC 2558-2565 and 2777-2802
- Lectionary for prayers of Liturgical Season Our Father

**Resources**

- Art- find art that helps lead the child into prayer Music: play Music: that leads the child into prayer.
- Prayers- use Prayers of the Church for prayer service

**Vocabulary**

- Gregorian Chant, Taize Prayer, Intercession, Petition, Communal Prayer Service

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder how many different ways we can pray. What ways can you think of?
2. Can we pray with music? With art?
3. Is Mass Prayer? I wonder if we can use the prayers of the Mass and the prayers of the Church to create our own prayer service.
4. When we pray, how do we experience Jesus? Can we share this with each other?

**Common Errors:**

- “We pray to the Saints/Mary, just as we pray to God.” We do not pray to the Saints and Mary/ we ask them to pray for us, they are intercessors.

Subject Matter: Creation Bible Study. (2 Week Bible Study)

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

Fourth Grade Bible Study: Creation

Instructions for Teachers:

Here you will find a collection of references for doing a Bible Study with your students. The mission is for you to lead your students through reading, pondering, and discussing these events recorded in this section of the Bible. All of the studies, from 4th through 7th grade focus on God's covenant relationship with man through particular mediators, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus. You will find a brief explanation of the story/events, all the Biblical references to read, and a list of references and resources you can use to prepare yourself.

**In the Resources section you will find a few books for your reference. These are chosen because they cover, in a very thorough yet concise way, each of these studies. You will find direct references to the relevant chapters in each of these books. You do not need to use every book. It is advisable to pick one and stick with it. The simplest one is Bible Basics for Catholics, by John Bergsma. This book includes simple stick-figure illustrations that the children could draw to help them learn the details of the studies. Bergsma intentionally included these for teachers and catechists. The most detailed one is Understanding the Scriptures by Scott Hahn, including lots of maps, charts, and artwork depicting scenes from these Bible stories.**

Since most of these studies involve multiple sections of Scripture, it would be best to spread these out over the course of weeks or months. The study intentionally correlates with the **Benchmarks** covering the sacrament for your grade so that you can integrate them together. This means the Bible study can be done at any point during the year and used as a reference point for other teachings included in the framework.

You will also find in your Sophia Institute textbook examples of artwork that could correlate with your study.

#### Overview of the Story

This initial Bible study covers just the first two chapters of the Book of Genesis.

They recount the story of Creation, which includes the cosmos, earth and all that it contained. It continues with the creation of man, who was created in the "image and likeness" of God.

Then woman, as a partner for man and ends with the day of 'rest' where Man and Woman enter into a relationship (covenant) with God. Through the cooperation of this relationship, Man and Woman are given dominion over all of creation to care for the earth and all its inhabitants.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.4.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- DOL.4.GROW.SCR.02 Recognize salvation history as God's unfolding work throughout all of time.
- DOL.4.GROW.SCR.03 Identify the concept of covenant. Explore briefly the Bible narratives about Adam (Gen 1:26-2:3; 2:15-17), Noah (Gen 9:8- 17), Abraham (Gen 17:1-14), Moses (Exod 19:3-6), David (2 Sam 7:15-19) and Jesus (Mt 26:28). DOL.4.GROW.SCR.04 Participate in Bible Study: Creation; Sin, Adam, and Eve. DOL.4.GROW.CRE.01 Recognize that there is one God.
- DOL.4.GROW.SAC.05 Identify and discuss examples of Old Testament events that prefigure the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
- DOL.4.GROW.DIG.03 Recognize original unity as the unique relation between male and female. DOL.4.GROW.DIG.07 Give examples of man's unique relationship with God as set apart from the rest of creation; naming the animals, cultivating the earth, and choosing between good and evil.
- DOL.4.GROW.M.02 Recognize the gifts of intellect and free will given by God to man.

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.4.WIT.02)

**Primary Goals:**

- To ponder the "first moment", or beginning of our Salvation History.
- To consider the vast preparation God made before humans arrived on the earth.
- To ponder God's loving plan for humankind.
- To ponder the gift from God, that all of creation is for us.
- To ponder the roles of Adam.

**Secondary Goals:**

- Understanding the goodness of God's creation.
- Understanding of typology
- Learning to navigate the Holy Bible (Book, Chapter, Verse)

**Methodology**

**Typology:** “the study of persons, places, events, and institutions in the Bible that foreshadow later and greater realities made known by God in history.” - Scott Hahn, Catholic Bible Dictionary, pg. 929. See also CCC 128 and pg. 38 of Understanding the Scriptures.

- Man (Adam) was created in the “image and likeness” of God.
  - “Image and likeness” means to be a son, a child of God.
  - Son/child of God points to Jesus, the Son of God.
  - Adam (priest-prophet-king) points to Jesus true (priest-prophet-king)
- Creation points to the sacrament of baptism.
  - “You have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself in Christ” (Rite of Baptism)
- Adam being given “dominion” over the creatures of the earth is a kingly role, which points to Jesus, the true king over heaven and earth.
- God giving Adam the right to name the animals, (speaking on behalf of God) indicates his role as prophet, which points to Jesus’ role as prophet, speaking on behalf of His Father, God.
- Adam’s response to God’s gift of Eve, prefigures Jesus’ passion for His bride, the Church.
- Gen 2:23 is covenant language making Adam the bridegroom of all humanity (Eve), pointing to Jesus as the Bridegroom of the Body of Christ (all of humanity).

**Biblical References:**

- Genesis 1: 1 - 2:3
- Genesis 2: 4 - 25

**Books (choose one):**

- Bible Basics for Catholics, Ch. 1, John Bergsma
- A Father Who Keeps His Promises, Ch. 2, Scott Hahn
- Understanding the Scriptures, A Complete Course on Bible Study, Ch. 3 , Scott Hahn
- History of the Kingdom of God: Creation to Parousia

**CCC references:**

- CCC 128-130
- CCC 279-308, 316
- CCC 355-378
- CCC 1218

**Suggested Resources:**

- Maps:
- Artwork/Sacred Images: Sacred Art Depicting Creation
  - <https://www.wga.hu/>
  - <https://www.artchive.com/>

**Sacrament Correlations:**

- Baptism

Reflection Questions:

1. Did God need to be created? So, when did Salvation History begin?
2. What does it mean to be created in the Image of God? Who was there at the creation of the first human?
3. Then, humans were given dominion over all creation, what does this mean?
4. Before God created humans, he created everything they would need. He laid out a banquet for us, do we still see these great gifts around us? Where?
5. How is Adam a type of Jesus? How does he prefigure Him?

**Common Errors:**

- “The Catholic Church is against science.” Some believe that because we believe in Creation by God, the Catholic Church does not believe in science, but that is simply not true. Science is the study of God’s creation.

**Assessments:**

These studies, as part of the new Religion Curriculum, seek to accomplish two goals for the students. One is that they encounter God and grow in the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love toward Him. These cannot be assessed through objective measures like tests. Teachers will instead observe their students for fruits that may be attributed to having been a part of this study. Teachers can ask what thoughts or feelings are inspired by the Bible passages. There are no right or wrong answers to these types of questions.

The second goal is for the students to learn the actions and words of God throughout history along with their theological meaning. Teachers can assess their learning of these elements with objective measures. You may consider one of the following assessments for your students:

1. Can students recall the types and meanings of those types from the Bible Story?
2. Can students recall the symbols and their meanings? (you may include the drawing of the illustrations from Bible Basics for Catholic.)
3. Can students recall the major individuals and events of the story?

Subject Matter: The Parousia.

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

God has a great plan for us, an eternal life with Him, when God will be all in all, it is our choice to accept this beautiful gift.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher-guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.4.ENC.02)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.4.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Explore that at the Parousia the Kingdom of God will come in its fullness and God will then be all-in-all. (DOL.4.GROW.CRE.03)
- Recognize that true freedom comes by choosing the good. (DOL.4.GROW.M.05)

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives and recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.4.WIT.01)
- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.4.WIT.02)
- DOL.4.WIT.03 Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.

**Sources**

- Scripture:
  - 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Matthew 25:31
- CCC 449,989, 1001, 1012, 1025

**Resources**

- Art of the child- Drawing what they think Parousia will be like.
- Prayer- Time alone in prayer offering a response to God's great gift of this earth.

**Vocabulary**

- Parousia Kingdom of God Communion

**Reflection Questions**

1. What is the Parousia?
2. What is the Kingdom of God?
3. How do I prepare for the Parousia?

Subject Matter: Moral Parables. (3 Week Lesson)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

We are called to live as Jesus taught us, treating others as we wish to be treated.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- DOL.4.ENC.07 Meditate on the meaning of the Our Father.

**GROW**

- DOL.4.GROW.DIG.01 Recognize a virtue as the habit of doing good..
- DOL.4.GROW.M.05 Recognize that true freedom comes by choosing the good.
- DOL.4.GROW.M.06 Recognize the three parts of the moral act: the object, the intention, and the circumstance.

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.4.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture:
  - Ten Virgins, Matthew 25:1-13; The Talents, Matthew 25:14-30, Debtor, Matthew 18:21-35; Pharisee and Tax Collector, Luke 18:9-14, and review Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37; Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-32
- CCC 546, 1439, 2463, 2631, 1822, 1939, 1718, 1730-1731, 1950, 1972, 2087

**Resources**

Art

Music:

Online

Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Moral, Parable, morality, prodigal, Samaritan

**Reflection Questions**

1. What did you hear in this parable? What is the lesson we are meant to learn?
2. Why does Jesus call us to live a moral life?
3. What happens when we choose the bad over the good?

**Common Errors-**

- “God gave us the Commandments and rules to control us.” God did not give us rules in order to control us, he gave us rules as a guide to how to live our lives. The Israelites would have seen this and very rightly celebrated these guidelines.

**Subject Matter: The Annunciation**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Mary fulfills Isaiah's prophecy that a virgin would conceive and bear a son. Through her, God comes to be with us.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- DOL.4.ENC.02 Listen to God in meditation (teacher-guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources.
- Participate in Marian devotions. (DOL.4.ENC.04).

**GROW**

- DOL.4.GROW.SCR.01 Find Scripture passages and reference them by citing book, chapter, and verse.
- Recognize how our need for a Savior was prophesied by the Old Testament authors and fulfilled by the Messiah. (DOL.4.GROW.SCR.05)
- DOL.4.GROW.H.01 Recognize the role of the Holy Spirit in the birth and growth of the Church.

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives and recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.4.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Luke 1:26-38, Isaiah 7:14
- CCC 484-486

**Resources**

- First Joyful Mystery of the Rosary ["Gabriel's Message" by Matt Maher](#),

**Vocabulary**

- Hail, Annunciation, overshadow, prophecy.

**Reflection Questions**

1. How does the Annunciation help me think about the Nativity?
2. What prayer do we hear some of the words from in the scripture passage on the Annunciation?
3. How does Mary fulfill Isaiah's prophecy?

**Common Errors**

- "When we die and go to heaven, we become angels." Angels are not people who have gone to heaven, they are pure spirits, created by God, with a purpose and role. Gabriel was a messenger angel. We are created in the image of God and have physical bodies.

**Subject Matter: The Visitation****Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent****Explanation/Proclamation**

Our hearts leap within us at the Good News that our long-awaited Savior has arrived.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.4.ENC.02)
- Participate in Marian devotions. (DOL.4.ENC.04).

**GROW**

- Recognize how our need for a Savior was prophesied by the Old Testament authors and fulfilled by the Messiah. (DOL.4.GROW.SCR.05)

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives and recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.4.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture:
  - Luke 1:39-45, Genesis 3:15, Jeremiah 23:6, Ezekiel 36:24-29, Isaiah 46:4-7,13
- CCC 717

**Resources**

Second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, Magnificat

**Vocabulary**

- Magnificat, haste

**Reflection Questions**

1. Do you think Mary and Elizabeth pondered the prophecies from the Old Testament?
2. What prayer do we hear some of the words from in the scripture passage on the Visitation?
3. How did Elizabeth recognize who Mary was carrying in her womb?
4. How do we recognize Jesus?

**Subject Matter: The Epiphany**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Christmas**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Magi from the East bowed down before Jesus and did Him homage.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.4.ENC.02)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.4.ENC.05)
- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.4.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Recognize how our need for a Savior was prophesied by the Old Testament authors and fulfilled by the Messiah. (DOL.4.GROW.SCR.05)
- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.4.ENC.06)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.4.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt. 2:1-12
- CCC 528

**Resources**

["How Many Kings" by Downhere.](#)

**Vocabulary**

- Magi, homage, prostrate, genuflect, myrrh, frankincense, adore

**Reflection Questions**

1. What does each gift represent?
2. Why did the Magi go home a different way than the way they came?
3. How do you think the Magi knew to follow the star, what or who drew them to it?
4. How do we pay homage to Jesus?

**Subject Matter: Sacraments****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus gave us the gifts of the Sacraments to help us grow closer to Him and each other.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.4.ENC.01).
- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.4.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Categorize the seven sacraments as sacraments of initiation, healing, or vocation/service. (DOL.4.GROW.SAC.01)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.4.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- CCC 1210 (1212-1666)

**Resources**

- Art
- Music:
- Prayer
- Symbols of the Sacraments

**Vocabulary**

- Sacrament, Initiation, Vocation, Healing

**Reflection Questions**

1. What are the sacraments of initiation?
  - a. How do the sacraments of initiation relate to one another?
2. What are the sacraments of healing?
  - a. How do the sacraments of healing relate to one another?
3. What are the sacraments of vocation/service?
  - a. How do the sacraments of vocation/service relate to one another?

**Subject Matter: Liturgy. (2 Week Lesson)**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

We encounter Christ in the liturgy of the Church, but most particularly at Mass. The Liturgical Calendar guides us into the celebration of Christ's life.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.4.ENC.01).
- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.4.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Participate in various forms of art as prayer (e.g., icons, stained glass, praise and worship, Gregorian Chant, Taize prayer). (DOL.4.GROW.PRA.01)
- Build a communal prayer service for the liturgical seasons. (DOL.4.GROW.PRA.05)
- Discuss the ways in which Christ can be personally encountered in the Liturgy. (DOL.4.GROW.SL.01)
- Build a communal prayer service for the liturgical seasons. (DOL.4.GROW.PRA.05)

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives, and recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.4.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- CCC 1136-1165
- Liturgical Calendar Ordo
  - <https://catholicallyear.com/> Roman Missal

**Resources**

- Art
- Prayer - Create a communal prayer service for the liturgical season you are in.
- Music

**Vocabulary**

- Liturgy, Mass, Eucharist, Liturgical Calendar

**Reflection Questions**

1. How does the Liturgical year help us celebrate the different parts of Jesus' life?
2. How do we meet Jesus in the Mass?
3. How is the Mass our most perfect prayer?
4. What do liturgical colors signify?
5. How do we celebrate the liturgical seasons at home?

Subject Matter: The Fall Bible Study. (2 Week Bible Study)

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Lent**

Fourth Grade Bible Study: Adam and Eve (SIN)

Instructions for Teachers:

Here you will find a collection of references for doing a Bible Study with your students. The mission is for you to lead our students through reading, pondering, and discussing these events recorded in this section of the Bible. All of the studies, from 4th through 7th grade focus on God's covenant relationship with man through particular mediators, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus. You will find a brief explanation of the story/events, all the Biblical references to read, and a list of references and resources you can use to prepare yourself.

**In the Resources section you will find a few books for your reference. These are chosen because they cover, in a very thorough yet concise way each of these studies. You will find direct references to the relevant chapters in each of these books. You do not need to use every book. It is advisable to pick one and stick with it. The simplest one is Bible Basics for Catholics, by John Bergsma. This book includes simple stick-figure illustrations that the children could draw to help them learn the details of the studies. Bergsma intentionally included these for teachers and catechists. The most detailed one is Understanding the Scriptures by Scott Hahn, including lots of maps, charts, and artwork depicting scenes from these Bible stories.**

Since most of these studies involve multiple sections of Scripture, it would be best to spread these out over the course of weeks or months. The study intentionally correlates with the **Benchmarks** covering the sacrament for your grade so that you can integrate them together. This means the Bible study can be done at any point during the year and used as a reference point for other teachings included in the framework.

You will also find in your Sophia Institute textbook examples of artwork that could correlate with your study.

### **Overview of the Story**

This study will look at chapter 3 of Genesis which recounts how man and woman, who once enjoyed a close relationship with God, through the gift of "free will", choose to disobey God's command, thus breaking their covenant with God. This causes the harmony of all creation to be upset and disordered. And yet, even in their disobedience, God shows love and care for and not abandonment for man, and promises to send someone, 'born of woman' who will redeem humanity.

## Benchmarks

## ENCOUNTER

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.4.ENC.05)

## GROW

- Find Scripture passages and reference them by citing book, chapter, and verse. (DOL.4.GROW.SCR.01)
- Recognize salvation history as God's unfolding work throughout all of time. (DOL.4.GROW.SCR.02)
- Participate in Bible Study: Creation; Sin, Adam, and Eve. Recognize how our need for a Savior was prophesied by the Old Testament authors and fulfilled by the Messiah. (DOL.4.GROW.SCR.04) (DOL.4.GROW.SCR.05)
- Recognize that there is one God. (DOL.4.GROW.CRE.01)
- Explore that at Parousia the Kingdom of God will come in its fullness and God will then be all-in-all. (DOL.4.GROW.CRE.03)
- Categorize the seven sacraments as sacraments of initiation, healing, or vocation/service. (DOL.4.GROW.SAC.01)
- Recognize original unity as the unique relation between male and female. (DOL.4.GROW.DIG.03)
- Recognize that suffering is the result of the Fall, and that suffering can make it difficult for us to see God. (DOL.4.GROW.DIG.04)
- Give examples of man's unique relationship with God as set apart from the rest of creation, naming the animals, cultivating the earth, and choosing between good and evil. (DOL.4.GROW.DIG.07)
- Recognize how baptism restores the special relationship God has with His sons and daughters. (DOL.4.GROW.DIG.08)
- Recognize that God knows and loves us each personally and God has a plan for each of our lives. (DOL.4.GROW.DIG.09)
- Identify the broken relationships caused by Original Sin: between the human person and God; within oneself; between human persons; between human beings and nature. – Refer to DOL.4.GROW.SCR.04 (DOL.4.GROW.M.01)
- Recognize the gifts of intellect and free will given by God to man. (DOL.4.GROW.M.02)
- Recognize the difference between mortal and venial sin. (DOL.4.GROW.M.03)
- Recognize that true freedom comes by choosing the good. (DOL.4.GROW.M.05)
- Recognize the three parts of the moral act: the object, the intention, and the circumstance. (DOL.4.GROW.M.06)

## WITNESS

- Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority. (DOL.4.WIT.03)

**Primary Goals:**

- To ponder, how, through the actions of humankind, sin and evil entered the world.
- To reflect on the consequences of sin.
- To contrast the damage of sin with the saving work of Jesus through Redemption

**Secondary Goals:**

- Learn to navigate the Holy Bible
- Desire for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Appreciation of God's loving care and mercy.

### Methodology

**Typology:** “the study of persons, places, events, and institutions in the Bible that foreshadow later and greater realities made known by God in history.” - Scott Hahn, Catholic Bible Dictionary, pg. 929. See also CCC 128 and pg. 38 of Understanding the Scriptures.

- First man (Adam) from the earth (Adamah) breaks his covenant with God, while the new Adam (Jesus) from heaven fulfills the covenant with God (redemption).
- Harmony of all creation in the garden of Eden, before the fall, points to the renewed harmony of all creation, as we await, that will be restored at the Parousia.
- By choosing to not suffer for love of his Father and his bride, breaks his covenant made with God, which is re-established by Jesus’ willingness to suffer out of total love for His Father and his bride, the Church.
- The Garden of Eden is just a glimpse of what awaits us in Heaven. (Rev 21-22)

### Biblical References:

- Genesis 3:1-24

### Books (choose one):

- Bible Basics for Catholics, Ch. 1, John Bergsma
- A Father Who Keeps His Promises, Ch. 3, Scott Hahn
- Understanding the Scriptures, A Complete Course on Bible Study, Ch. 3, Scott Hahn

### CCC references:

- CCC 54-55, 309-314, CCC 355-421

### Suggested Resources:

- Maps
- Artwork/Sacred Images: Art depicting the fall of Adam & Eve
  - <https://www.artchive.com/>
  - <https://www.wga.hu>

### Sacrament Correlations:

- Reconciliation

### Reflection Questions:

1. What is sin?
2. How did sin enter the world?
3. What are the consequences of sin?
4. How did Jesus redeem us from sin?

### Assessments:

These studies, as part of the new Religion Curriculum, seek to accomplish two goals for the students. One is that they encounter God and grow in the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love toward Him. These cannot be assessed through objective measures like tests. Teachers will instead observe their students to see if growth is happening. Teachers can ask what thoughts or feelings are inspired by the Bible passages. There are no right or wrong answers to these.

The second goal is for the students to learn the actions and words of God throughout history along with their theological meaning. Teachers can assess their learning of these elements with objective measures. You may consider one of the following assessments for your students:

1. Can students recall the types and meanings of those types from the Bible Story?
2. Can students recall the symbols and their meanings? (You may include the drawing of the illustrations from Bible Basics for Catholic.)
3. Can students recall the major individuals and events of the story?



**Subject Matter: The Passion. (2 Week Lesson)****Suggested Liturgical Season: Lent****Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus is the Lamb of God, the mediator of the New and Everlasting Covenant.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.4.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- DOL.4.GROW.SCR.03 Identify the concept of covenant. Explore briefly the Bible narratives about Adam (Gen 1:26-2:3; 2:15-17), Noah (Gen 9:8- 17), Abraham (Gen 17:1-14), Moses (Exod 19:3-6), David (2 Sam 7:15-19) and Jesus (Mt 26:28).
- Recognize how our need for a Savior was prophesied by the Old Testament authors and fulfilled by the Messiah. (DOL.4.GROW.SCR.05)

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives and recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.4.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - The Old Testament covenant mediators: Adam (Gen 1:26-2:3; 2:15-17), Noah (Gen 9:8- 17), Abraham (Gen 17:1-14), Moses (Exd 19:3-6), David (2 Sam 7:15-19)
  - New Testament covenant mediator: Jesus (Mt 26:28)
  - Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24, John 17-21
- CCC 599-682

**Resources**

- Bible
- Map of the City of Jerusalem
- Artwork you may find and the art of the child Stations of the Cross
- Prayer time in church

**Vocabulary**

- Prophet, Covenant, Resurrection, Savior, Mediator

**Reflection Questions**

1. What is the basic theme of the Old Testament Covenants? Who are some of the mediators of these Covenants and what are some of the things they are promised? Are there symbols with these covenants?
2. Are people able to keep these covenants easily?
3. Why is Jesus the perfect and everlasting covenant?
4. What did Jesus have to do to fulfill this covenant for us?
5. Jesus died on the cross, but did he stay dead? Is he alive today?

**Common Errors:**

"All we need to do to get to heaven is to be nice and good to others". We don't get to heaven by just being nice people. We need to truly believe in Jesus as the Son of God and accept him as our savior. We also need to live as He taught us to live and treat others as He taught us to.

Subject Matter: The Eucharist

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter or Lent**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

We receive Jesus in the Eucharist - Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity - and should do so often and with a clean heart.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.4.ENC.01).
- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.4.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- DOL.4.GROW.SCR.03 Identify the concept of covenant. Explore briefly the Bible narratives about Adam (Gen 1:26-2:3; 2:15-17), Noah (Gen 9:8- 17), Abraham (Gen 17:1-14), Moses (Exod 19:3-6), David (2 Sam 7:15-19) and Jesus (Mt 26:28).
- Discuss the ways in which Christ can be personally encountered in the Liturgy. (DOL.4.GROW.SL.01)
- Discuss the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist as an important part of conversion and growth in discipleship. (DOL.4.GROW.SAC.03)

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives and recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.4.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- CCC 1322-1419
- Scripture Passages- see those highlighted in the CCC passages above.

**Resources Roman Missal Artwork Journal**

- Prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament

**Vocabulary**

- Eucharist, Covenant, Sacrament (oath), Consecration, State of Grace.

**Reflection Questions**

1. How does the Sacrament of Eucharist help me grow closer to God? Why should we make an effort to grow closer to God?
2. When do the bread and wine become the true body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus? Who gives the priest the power to do this? When in the Eucharist Prayer is the Holy Spirit called down to give this power?

**Common Errors:**

“The Eucharist is merely a symbol.” The Eucharist is not merely a symbol, we believe that at the Consecration the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus, and He is truly present in the Eucharist.

Subject Matter: The Resurrection

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter**

### Explanation/Proclamation

Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He did not stay dead, He is alive and those who believe in Him and live as He instructs us to live, will join Him one day in Heaven in our resurrected, glorified bodies.

### Benchmarks

#### ENCOUNTER

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (DOL.4.ENC.05).

#### GROW

- Discuss Christ's Resurrection and the resurrection of our bodies at the end of time. (DOL.4.GROW.CRE.04)

#### WITNESS

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives and recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.4.WIT.01)

### Sources

- CCC: 366,556, 988-1013,1524,1038,
- YC-104-108
- Scripture
  - Corinthians Chapter 15:14, The Gospel and Acts accounts of Jesus' Resurrection, Matthew 25
  - Scripture passages found in the CCC References.

### Resources

- Creed Artwork Journaling

### Vocabulary

- Resurrection, Parousia, Heaven, Transfiguration, Final Judgment

### Reflection Questions

1. What is our part in being raised to eternal life with Christ?
2. I wonder what heaven will be like. Do we really know? What do you think our resurrected bodies will be like? Does Scripture give us a glimpse into this? Where?

### Common Errors:

- "We get to heaven by just being nice people." We do not get to heaven by merely being nice, we need to truly believe in Jesus as the Son of God and accept him as our savior. We also need to live as He taught us to live and treat others as He taught us to.
- "When we get to heaven, we become angels." We do not turn into angels at our death. Angels are a separate creation than we are and are pure spirit. We are created in the image of God and have physical bodies.

1. Subject Matter: Pentecost and Holy Spirit

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to advocate for us until He comes again. He gives us the gifts of God's own spirit so we can help build the Kingdom of God on earth.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.4.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Recognize the role of the Holy Spirit in the birth and growth of the Church. (DOL.4.GROW.H.01)

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives and recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.4.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Acts 1: 7-8, Acts 2: 1-11, Isaiah 11:2-3a
- CCC 731-747
- YC-118-120

**Resources Artwork Journaling**

- Write out the gifts in a booklet and illustrate it.

**Vocabulary**

- Pentecost, Holy Spirit, Wisdom, Understanding, Fear of the Lord, Fortitude, Piety, Council, Knowledge, Kingdom of God, Church, Advocate, Mission

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why is wind a symbol for the Holy Spirit?
2. The Disciples received many gifts at that time, let's look at each gift and examine what they mean.
3. Are these gifts only for the Disciples?
4. I wonder, can we use these gifts to help grow the Kingdom of God?
5. Are we able to call on the Holy Spirit at any time?

**Subject Matter: Mary****Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter****Explanation/Proclamation**

Mary is the Mother of God and at His death, Jesus shared her with each of us, to be our Blessed Mother in Heaven. We can ask for her intercessions as she is there with Jesus.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Participate in Marian devotions. (DOL.4.ENC.04).

**GROW**

- Identify and discuss major doctrines and dogmas related to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Immaculate Conception, Annunciation, and Assumption). (DOL.4.GROW.CRE.02)
- Participate in various forms of art as prayer (e.g., icons, stained glass, praise and worship, Gregorian Chant, Taize prayer). (DOL.4.GROW.PRA.01).

**WITNESS**

- Share how they have experienced Jesus in their own lives and recognize that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.4.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture: Gospel passages with Mary- Annunciation, Visitation, Birth of Jesus, and Wedding Feast at Cana are a few examples. Be sure to include John 19: 26-27, where Jesus hands Mary over to John for him to care for.
- YC-85
- CCC-963-966, 973

**Resources**

- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers: Stations of the Cross, Rosary
- Prayer books/Journaling

**Vocabulary**

- Rosary, Devotions, Mother of God, Blessed Virgin, Queen of Heaven, and other names for Mary, Intercessory, honor

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why do we as Catholics honor Mary?
2. Why do we ask her to pray for us?
3. I wonder how Mary felt being the Mother of Jesus.
4. I wonder how powerful Mary's intercession is for us.

**Common Errors**

"Catholics Worship Mary." We do not worship Mary, our prayers to her are intercessory, where we ask her to pray for us to her son, Jesus Christ. She is not God, she is, however, the Mother of God, since we believe that Jesus is God, and she is His mother.

*Parish Lesson Guides*

# **Fifth Grade**

*Diocese of Lansing 2024*

**Subject Matter: Prayer****Suggested Liturgical Season: Any****Explanation/Proclamation:**

Prayer, whether personal, communal, or liturgical, is a way of living our covenant relationship with God who is present with us when we pray.

**Benchmark****ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.5.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.5.ENC.02)
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**GROW**

- Demonstrate the use of different types and styles of prayer. (e.g. journaling, art, song, praying with icons). (DOL.5.GROW.PRA.01)
- Learn prayers of the Church. (DOL.5.GROW.PRA.03)
- Build a communal prayer service for the liturgical seasons. (DOL.5.GROW.PRA.04)  
(Essential synthetic activity for end of lesson.)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.5.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Lk 11:1-4
- CCC 2558-2565
- YC - 469
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books

**Resources**

- Art
- Online:
- Music: (especially religious music.)
- Prayers to know by heart (DOL): [Theology Framework](#)

**Vocabulary**

- Prayer, Communion, Gift, Relationship (Covenant), Blessing, Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving, Contemplative, Praise, Liturgy/Liturgical, Liturgy of the Hours

**Reflection Questions**

1. How is God present with us when we pray?
2. I wonder how [type of prayer] puts us in communion with God?
3. How does prayer aid us in living our covenant life with God?
4. Why do you think Jesus wants us to worship him through liturgical prayer?
5. Why is my personal prayer important to me? To God?

Subject Matter: Eucharistic Adoration

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

Eucharistic Adoration is an opportunity for us to spend time prayerfully adoring and worshipping Jesus who is fully present in the consecrated host.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.5.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.5.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Recognize that the Eucharist is the source and summit of Catholic life. (DOL.5.GROW.SL.03)
- Demonstrate the use of different types and styles of prayer (e.g. journaling, art, song, praying with icons). (DOL.5.GROW.PRA.01)

**WITNESS**

- Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.5.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 2:1-12; Mt:28:1-10 (esp. Verse 9).
- CCC 2626-2649
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books
- “Behold the Lamb of God...” [The Offering].

**Resources**

- Vestments and Vessels (Cope, Humeral Veil, Monstrance, Thurible, etc.)
- Art
- Online: - [“What do we do in Adoration?”](#), [“Make Time for Adoration”](#), [“Why Go to Adoration?”](#)
- Music: (with translations) - O Salutaris Hostia, Tantum Ergo, Holy God We Praise Thy Name (You are not restricted to these, they are just the most traditional. Any songs that lead the students to adore Jesus are appropriate).
- Prayers (Adoration prayers and responses, esp. The Divine Praises)

**Vocabulary**

- Consecrated Host, Adoration, Humeral veil, Cope, Thurible, Monstrance, Exposition, Benediction, Reposition

**Reflection Questions**

1. “I wonder, if Jesus were in the room with us, what would we each do, say, think, feel?”
2. “I wonder, what does it mean to offer things to Jesus in prayer?”
3. “How do we bring our needs to the Lord?”
4. “How can we imitate the wise men in adoring Jesus?” (YC - 486)
5. “I wonder, what makes Jesus worthy of our adoration?” (YC-485)

Subject Matter: Bible Lectio

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

Lectio Divina helps us to encounter the presence of God in the words of Sacred Scripture.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.5.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Understand that Scripture helps us examine our conscience and our relationship with God and others. (DOL.5.GROW.M.03)
- Practice lectio divina with the Sacred Scriptures. (DOL.5.GROW.PRA.02)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.5.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- Recommendation: Choose a reading from the upcoming Sunday to practice Lectio Divina. Lectio can be practiced with any Scripture passage.
- CCC 1177
- Lectionary
- Magisterial Docs: Dei Verbum, #1,3

**Resources**

- Lectio Divina Resources
  - <https://hallow.com/blog/how-to-pray-lectio-divina/>
  - <https://www.usccb.org/bible/national-bible-week/upload/lectio-divina.pdf>
- Prayers: Prayers to the Holy Spirit prior to Lectio.
- Reference that reading the Bible is itself a type of prayer.

**Vocabulary**

- Lectio Divina, Meditation, Contemplation, The 4 Steps: Lectio (reading); Meditatio (meditation); Oratio (prayer); Contemplatio (Contemplation).

**Reflection Questions**

1. How does Lectio Divina help me encounter God's presence in the words of Scripture?
2. These questions are to be asked in the context of a guided Lectio:
  - a. What is the action of God in this Scripture passage?
  - b. What is God saying to me in these words?
  - c. What do these words teach me about God?
  - d. How should I respond in love to God's word in this Scripture?
  - e. How does this Scripture passage help me live in the Kingdom of God?
3. How can I practice Lectio Divina on my own?
4. How can I treat my Bible with reverence?

Subject Matter: The Church and Her Sacraments

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

Jesus entrusted the sacraments to the Church as a way of sharing his presence and divine life with us.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (DOL.5.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Define sacrament as an outward sign instituted by Jesus entrusted to the Church by which divine life is shared with us. (DOL.5.GROW.SAC.01)
- Explain the meaning of signs and symbols. (DOL.5.GROW.SAC.03)
- Identify Gospel and other New Testament passages that reflect the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. (DOL.5.GROW.SAC.04)
- Recognize how the Church is the institution established by Christ through which the sacraments are celebrated, and grace is given. (DOL.5.GROW.SL.01)
- Describe the Church as a sacrament and outward sign of Christ in the world. (DOL.GROW.H.01)

**WITNESS**

- Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.5.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Articles on the Biblical basis for the Sacraments
  - <https://www.catechist.com/discover-sacraments-bible/>
  - <https://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/Sacraments.htm>
- CCC 1113-1134
- YC 174
- Ritual Books for each sacrament
- Magisterial Docs: Lumen Gentium #7,9.

**Resources**

- Online:: [Sophia Sketchpad](#); [Sketchy Catholicism: Sacraments](#)

**Vocabulary**

- Sacrament, Signs, Symbols, Divine life (Partakers of divine life), In persona Christi, Matter, Form, Minister

**Reflection Questions**

1. What gift does Jesus give us in each Sacrament?
2. How is Jesus present to us in each Sacrament?
3. How does each sacrament help us live in the Kingdom of God?
4. How is divine life different from other types of life?
5. I wonder how the Sacraments make us Holy?
6. What would life be like without the Sacraments?
7. What/who is the matter/form/minister of [insert sacrament]?

- Subject Matter: Prophecy

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent**

#### **Explanation/Proclamation:**

A prophet is a person sent from God with a message about the coming of Jesus and/or how to live within God's kingdom.

#### **Benchmark**

##### **ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (DOL.5.ENC.05)

##### **GROW**

- Explain how our need of a Savior was prophesied by the Old Testament authors and fulfilled by the Messiah. (DOL.5.GROW.SCR.05)
- Describe how the celebration of the liturgical year helps us grow in faith. (DOL.5.GROW.SL.02)

##### **WITNESS**

- Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.5.WIT.03)

#### **Sources**

- Scripture
  - Prophetic Books, especially Isaiah and Jeremiah; Look at Scriptural citations in CCC 709-720.
- CCC: Definition of Prophet in CCC Index,709-720,785.
- YC 116
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books
- Preface II of Advent + Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus).
- Lectionary
- Especially the 1st readings from Sundays in Advent.
- Magisterial Docs: Dei Verbum 4,12,14-16

#### **Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers.

#### **Vocabulary**

- Prophet/Prophecy, Messiah/Messianic, Moral, Vocation

#### **Reflection Questions**

1. Why is it important that prophets listen to God?
2. What type of messages does God give to his prophets?
3. How do the prophets respond to the vocation God gives them?
4. How do people react to the message of the prophets?
5. How can we be like the prophets?
6. Why did the people need the prophets' message? How did Jesus fulfill that message?

- Subject Matter: Infancy Narratives (Part One - Annunciation and Visitation).

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent**

#### **Explanation/Proclamation:**

God comes to earth through the Holy Spirit in cooperation with Mary who leads us to adore her son Jesus.

#### **Benchmark**

##### **ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.5.ENC.01)
- Participate in Marian devotions. (DOL.5.ENC.04)

##### **GROW**

- Describe how the celebration of the liturgical year helps us grow in faith (DOL.5.GROW.SL.02)
- Demonstrate the use of different types and styles of prayer (e.g. journaling, art, song, praying with icons). (DOL.5.GROW.PRA.01)

##### **WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.5.WIT.02)

#### **Sources**

- Scripture
  - Lk 1:26-38(Annunciation); 39-56 (Visitation)
- CCC 490-501, 523, 973, 969, 2617, 2674-2677
- YC 479
- Magisterial Docs: Redemptoris Mater, 8-19.

#### **Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Music
- Prayers: Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, Magnificat, Angelus.

#### **Vocabulary**

- Annunciation, Overshadow (filled), Visitation, Haste, Full of Grace, Womb, Handmaid, Tabernacle.

#### **Reflection Questions (Annunciation):**

1. What is each member of the Holy Trinity's role in this story?
2. What does it mean to be favored by God?
3. What would it be like to be overshadowed by the Holy Spirit?
4. What does this scripture tell us is the moment God came to earth as a human being? (Jesus is conceived in Mary's womb.)
5. What are different moments in our lives when we are overshadowed by the Holy Spirit?
6. What prophecies does Mary fulfill?

#### **Reflection Questions (Visitation):**

1. What happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth? I wonder why?
2. How is this Scripture passage similar to what happens at Eucharist Adoration?
3. What happens in our hearts in the presence of God?
4. How is Mary like the tabernacle?
5. How are we like the tabernacle?
6. How can we show others the presence of God in us?

Subject Matter: Infancy Narratives (Part Two - Shepherds and Nativity)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent/Christmas**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

God came to earth as a humble baby to save the world. We respond by giving glory to God.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Call upon the Saints for their intercession (DOL.5.ENC.03)

**GROW**

- Describe how the celebration of the liturgical year helps us grow in faith (DOL.5.GROW.SL.02)
- Practice lectio divina with the Sacred Scriptures. (DOL.5.GROW.PRA.02)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.5.WIT.02)
- Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.5.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 1:18-25, Lk 2:1-20
- CCC 457-460, 461-464

**Resources**

Maps/Geography:

Art:

Online:

Music:

Prayers.

**Vocabulary**

- Incarnation, Glory, Legions of Angels, Manger, Good News, Messiah

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why did God come to Earth? (*To save us, to show us God loves us, to be our model of holiness, to make us holy like him.*)
2. How did the shepherds receive this good news?
3. How are we like the shepherds?
4. How does the visit of the shepherds remind us of adoration?
5. How can we see the glory of the Lord?
6. How can we give praise and glory to God?
7. How can we celebrate Christmas like the shepherds?

Subject Matter: Infancy Narratives (Part Three: Epiphany and/or Presentation in the Temple)

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Christmas**

#### **Explanation/Proclamation:**

The magi, Simeon, and Anna all show us that Jesus came to be the king for all of humanity and how we should all adore our king by offering him our lives as a gift.

#### **Benchmark**

##### **ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.5.ENC.01)
- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.5.ENC.02)

##### **GROW**

- Describe how the celebration of the liturgical year helps us grow in faith. (DOL.5.GROW.SL.02)
- Practice lectio divina with the Sacred Scriptures. (DOL.5.GROW.PRA.02)

##### **WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.5.WIT.02)
- Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others (DOL.5.WIT.03)

#### **Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 2:1-12; Lk 2:22-38
- CCC 486, 526, 528-529, 583
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books

#### **Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers.

#### **Vocabulary**

- Adoration, Magi, Epiphany, Messiah, Homage, Prostrate, Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh, Devout, Purification, Consecrated, Sacrifice, Temple, Redemption of Jerusalem, Righteous

#### **Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how the magi, Simeon, and Anna all recognized that the baby Jesus was God?
2. How was Simeon guided by the Holy Spirit?
3. How did Anna give worship to God?
4. How can we give Jesus homage? How do we show reverence when Jesus is nearby?
5. How can we offer Jesus the gift of our praise, adoration, and worship?

Subject Matter: Human Dignity

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time or Lent**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

Every human being's dignity comes from the love of God who made them in His image and likeness.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.5.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Contemplate the source of one's human dignity and value as being created in the image and likeness of God. (DOL.5.GROW.DIG.02)
- Discuss how Jesus models what it means for a person to be a gift for others. (DOL.5.GROW.DIG.03)
- Analyze how the body reveals that each person is made for relationship with God, others, and the world. (DOL.5.GROW.DIG.04)

**WITNESS**

- Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.5.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Gn 1:27; Jn 13:34-35; 1 Cor 6:19-20; 1 Cor 12:12.
- CCC 1691, 1700-1715.
- Magisterial Docs: JP II, "Theology of the Body"

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers.

**Vocabulary**

- Image and Likeness of God, Dignity, Body, Soul, Members (of the mystical body), Honor, Respect.

**Reflection Questions**

1. What is the image and likeness of God?
2. How can we be more like God?
3. Why does God want us to know our dignity and worth?
4. How can we honor our own dignity and worth? How can we honor the dignity and worth of others?
5. How can we thank God for the incredible gift of being made in his image and likeness?

Subject Matter: Virtue

### Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time or Lent

#### Explanation/Proclamation:

In response to the gift of God's love, we build virtuous habits so that we can bring God's love to the world.

#### Benchmark

##### ENCOUNTER

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (DOL.5.ENC.05)
- Opportunity to contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.5.ENC.08)

##### GROW

- Demonstrate that man comes to know himself through a gift-of-self. (DOL.5.GROW.M.01)
- Show how we learn more about ourselves through our relationships with others. (DOL.5.GROW.M.02) -
- Name the Theological Virtues and the Cardinal Virtues. (DOL.5.GROW.M.04)
- Discuss how Jesus models what it means for a person to be a gift for others. (DOL.5.GROW.DIG.03)

##### WITNESS

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.5.WIT.02)
- Participate in service to others and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and the mission of the school and parish. (DOL.5.WIT.04)

#### Sources

- Scripture
  - 1 Cor 13:13, Prv 2:1-15
- CCC 1803-1841
- YC- 299
- Magisterial Docs: JP II, "Theology of the Body"

#### Resources

- ["Education in Virtue"](#) by Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist
- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers.

#### Vocabulary

- Virtue; Gift; Habit; Theological Virtues; Faith; Hope; Love/Charity; Cardinal Virtues; Prudence; Temperance; Justice, Fortitude

#### Reflection Questions

1. Where do the virtues come from?
2. How are the virtues a gift to the world?
3. How does living the virtues help us preserve our dignity and worth as well as the dignity and worth of others.
4. How is being virtuous a way of showing God honor, glory, and love?
5. How do the virtues help us live in the kingdom of God?

Subject Matter: Baptism

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time or Easter**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

In the Sacrament of Baptism our sins are forgiven, we are adopted as God's sons and daughters, initiated into the Church, and given a vocation to holiness.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (DOL.5.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Define sacrament as an outward sign instituted by Jesus entrusted to the Church by which divine life is shared with us. (DOL.5.GROW.SAC.01)
- Explain the meaning of signs and symbols. (DOL.5.GROW.SAC.03)
- Demonstrate how the Sacraments empower us to serve others. (DOL.5.GROW.SAC.04)
- Discuss ways the Holy Trinity is manifested in the sacraments, as the Trinity is the relationship of love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (DOL.5.GROW.CRE.01)
- Recognize how the Church is the institution established by Christ through which the sacraments are celebrated, and grace is given. (DOL.5.GROW.SL.01)

**WITNESS**

- Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.5.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 28:19-20
- CCC 1213-1222, 1234-1284
- YC 194
- Rite of Baptism
- Lumen Gentium, Chapter 1.

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers.

**Vocabulary**

- Sacrament, Sacramental Grace, Initiation, Adoption, Body of Christ, Remission of Sins, Christian, Anointing, Vocation.

**Reflection Questions**

1. What gifts do we receive in Baptism?
2. What responsibilities do we receive in Baptism?
3. I wonder, how does baptism lead us to eternal life?
4. How do we remind ourselves of our baptism?
5. Why should we cherish our baptism?

Subject Matter: The Eucharist

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

The Mass is the source and summit of our lives as Christians where we go to worship and be nourished by the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.5.ENC .01)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.5.ENC .05)
- Meditate upon the Eucharistic prayers of the Roman Missal. (DOL.5.ENC .07)

**GROW**

- Discuss the source of each Sacrament in Scripture: Baptism (Jn 3:5), Confirmation (Acts 8:14-17), Eucharist (Jn 6:51-58), Reconciliation (Jn 20:21-23), Matrimony (Mt 19:4-6), Holy Orders (Acts 6:3-6, 13:2-3; Tim 3:1), Anointing of the Sick (James 5:14-15). (DOL.5.GROW.SCR.06)
- Discuss ways the Holy Trinity is manifested in the sacraments, as the Trinity is the relationship of love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (DOL.5.GROW.CRE.01)
- Recognize that the Eucharist is the source and summit of Catholic life. (DOL.5.GROW.SL.03)
- Describe why the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Church's life. (DOL.5.GROW.SAC.02)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.5.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - John 6:22-66 (The Bread of Life Discourse)
  - Compare the Last Supper narratives in each Gospel.
- Roman Missal: Eucharistic Prayers
- Magisterial Docs: Sacrosanctum Concilium, 10

**Resources:**

- Online: [Sophia SketchPad: The Eucharist](#)
- Music:
- Prayers
- Tour of Worship Space

**Vocabulary**

- Eucharist; (Prayer of) Consecration; Words of Institution; Consecrated Host; Real/True Presence; Source and Summit, Nourishment, Communion

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder why Jesus chooses to feed his sheep in this way.
2. How do we honor the Eucharist?
3. I wonder what happens inside us when we receive Jesus in the Eucharist?
4. Why do we call Mass the source and summit of our faith?
5. What does it mean to be nourished by God?
6. How does the Eucharist make us like Christ?
7. Why do we call the Eucharist communion?

Subject Matter: Holy Orders

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

Jesus has given his power and authority to Bishops, Priests, and Deacons so that they continue Christ's mission on Earth.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Ponder their own vocation, as one who responds generously to the call of God. (DOL.5.ENC.0)

**GROW**

- Discuss the source of each Sacrament in Scripture: Baptism (Jn 3:5), Confirmation (Acts 8:14-17), Eucharist (Jn 6:51-58), Reconciliation (Jn 20:21-23), Matrimony (Mt 19:4-6), Holy Orders (Acts 6:3-6, 13:2-3; Tim 3:1), Anointing of the Sick (James 5:14-15). (DOL.5.GROW.SCR.06)
- Contemplate the prayers and understand the structure of the Rite of Holy Orders. (DOL.5.GROW.SL.04)
- Identify Gospel and other New Testament passages that reflect the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. (DOL.5.SAC.05)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority (DOL.5.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Deacons (Acts 6:3-6)
  - Priests (Jn 13:1-20, Acts 13:2-3; 1 Cor 11:23-26)
  - Bishops (1 Tim 3:1)
  - The Pope (Bishop of Rome): Mt 16:13-20.
- CCC 1541-1543; 1572-1581
- [Rite of Ordination](#)
- Roman Missal: Eucharistic Prayer Intercessions

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online: [Sacrament of Holy Orders](#)
- Prayers
- Tour of Worship Space
- Your parish Priest, Deacons, or seminarians

**Vocabulary**

- Holy Orders; Bishop; Priest; Deacon; Ordination; Laying on of Hands; Apostolic Succession; Pope/Bishop of Rome; Vocation/Call; Service

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder why Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
2. I wonder why we say that priests act "in the person of Christ?" (In persona Christi).
3. I wonder what is so significant about the laying on the hands? (Epiclesis)
4. I wonder how we know what vocation we are called into.
5. How did Abraham model Holy Orders?
6. How are Bishops, Priests, and Deacons a gift to us?
7. How can we support our Bishops, Priests, and Deacons?

Subject Matter: Reconciliation

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any/Lent**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

The gift of Reconciliation restores our relationship with God when we are contrite and ask forgiveness for our sins.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (DOL.5.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Discuss the source of each Sacrament in Scripture: Baptism (Jn 3:5), Confirmation (Acts 8:14-17), Eucharist (Jn 6:51-58), Reconciliation (Jn 20:21-23), Matrimony (Mt 19:4-6), Holy Orders (Acts 6:3-6, 13:2-3; Tim 3:1), Anointing of the Sick (James 5:14-15). (DOL.5.GROW.SCR.06)
- Explain the meaning of signs and symbols. (DOL.5.GROW.SAC.03)
- Compare God's forgiveness of us with our call to forgive others (Mt 6:9-15). Bible Study: Abraham (DOL.5.GROW.DIG.01)
- Understand that Scripture helps us examine our conscience and our relationship with God and others. (DOL.5.GROW.M.03)
- Recall the difference between original sin and personal sin. (DOL.5.GROW.M.06)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority. (DOL.5.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Jn 20:21-23; Mt 18:21-22 (God never tires of forgiving us).
  - Other Scriptures about morality and forgiveness should be used at the DRE/Catechist's discretion.
- CCC 1425-1426; 1440-1467
- [Reconciliation Ceremony](#)
- [Rite of Penance](#)

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online: [Sophia Sketchpad: Confession](#)
- Music:
- Prayers: Act of Contrition

**Vocabulary**

- Personal Sin; Contrition; Conversion; Confession; Penance; Reconciliation; Absolution

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a gift from Jesus.
2. How do we recognize when we have sinned and need to go to Confession?
3. How do we express our sorrow for our sins?
4. I wonder what happens in our souls as the priest extends his hands over us during the prayer of absolution.
5. I wonder, how can we thank the Lord for the gift of Reconciliation?
6. I wonder, how does the Sacrament of Reconciliation help us to avoid sin in the future?

Subject Matter: The Paschal Narrative (Part One: Jesus' Passion and Death)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Lent/Easter**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

During Mass, the events of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection are represented.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (DOL.5.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Participate in Bible Study: Abraham and the Covenant; typology to Jesus' sacrifice, the Eucharist. (DOL.5.GROW.SCR.04)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.5.WIT.02)
- Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.5.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- Compare each Gospel's account of Christ's crucifixion and death: Mt 27:32-66; Mk 15:20-47; Lk 23:26-56; Jn 19:17-42
- CCC 571-573; 599-623; 1353-1390
- YC 94-104
- Roman Missal: Eucharistic Prayer, Memorial Acclamation

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art: [Through the Eucharist](#)
- Online: Sophia Sketchpad: Confession
- Music:
- Prayers: Stations of the Cross

**Vocabulary**

- Passion, Memorial (Re-Present), Sacrifice, Eucharist (Thanksgiving).

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how the Cross shows us God's love.
2. What moments/prayers of the Mass remind us of Jesus' death on the cross?
3. How can we sacrifice our lives for Christ?
4. What is it we give thanks for at Mass?
5. How do we respond to such a gift as Christ's sacrifice on the Cross?

Subject Matter: The Paschal Narratives (Part Two: Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Lent/Easter**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

During Mass, the events of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection are re-presented.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (DOL.5.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Participate in Bible Study: Abraham and the Covenant; typology to Jesus' sacrifice, the Eucharist. (DOL.5.GROW.SCR.04)
- Practice lectio divina with the Sacred Scriptures. (DOL.5.GROW.PRA.02)

**WITNESS**

- Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.5.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Resurrection: Mt 28:1-8; Mk 16:1-8; Lk 24:1-12; Jn 20:1-10
- Ascension: Mk 16:19-20; Lk 24:50-53; Acts 1:6-11.
- CCC 638-667; 1323, 1343-1344, 1382
- YC 94-104
- Roman Missal: Mystery of Faith; Prefaces of Easter; [Preface 1 and 2 of the Ascension of the Lord](#)

**Resources**

Maps/Geography:

Art:

Online:

Music:

Prayers: Gloria

**Vocabulary**

- Easter; Resurrection; Alleluia; Ascension; Preface
  - Pay careful attention to the definition of Jesus' Resurrection. See CCC 645-646.

**Reflection Questions**

**Resurrection:**

1. I wonder how the Resurrection changed the world.
2. I wonder how people received the news of the Resurrection.
3. What does the Resurrection teach us about human death?
4. How do we share in Jesus' Resurrection?
5. How can we share the good news about Jesus' Resurrection?

**Ascension:**

1. I wonder, what does the Ascension tell us about God's Kingdom?
2. I wonder, is Jesus still present with us here on earth? How?

Subject Matter: The Holy Spirit

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is given to us by the Father and Son as a gift in every Sacrament and moment of grace to dwell within us and make us holy.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (DOL.5.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Discuss the Holy Spirit as the giver of life. (DOL.5.GROW.CRE.05)
- Demonstrate how the Sacraments empower us to serve others. (DOL.5.GROW.SAC.04)
- Discuss how gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to lead a holy life. (DOL.5.GROW.M.07)

**WITNESS**

- Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others. (DOL.5.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Gn 1:1-2; Lk 1:34-35; Lk 3:21-22; Jn 14:15-31; Acts 2:1-8; Acts 8:14-17, 1 Cor 6:19
- CCC 683-747; 1104-1109; 1699-1715; 2564.
- YC 118, 204
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art: Signs and symbols of the Holy Spirit (Choose several from CCC 694-701)
- Online:
- Music: Veni Creator Spiritus
- Prayers: "Sign of the Cross"; "Come Holy Spirit"

**Vocabulary**

- Holy Spirit; Sanctify; In-Dwelling; Epiclesis; Overshadow; Laying on of Hands; Pentecost; Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Wisdom; Understanding; Knowledge; Counsel; Fortitude; Piety; Fear of the Lord)

**Reflection Questions**

1. How does the Holy Spirit come to us and how do we recognize his presence?
2. I wonder, how is the Holy Spirit a gift to us?
3. I wonder, how are we temples of the Holy Spirit?
4. I wonder why we use signs, symbols, and gestures to recognize the Holy Spirit?
5. (To aid in making an invisible reality present to us.)
6. I wonder, what gifts do we receive from the Holy Spirit?

Subject Matter: Profession of Faith

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

The Church has given us creeds as statements of our common beliefs, which we profess as truth and the foundation of our unity.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.5.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Discuss ways the Holy Trinity is manifested in the sacraments, as the Trinity is the relationship of love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (DOL.5.GROW.CRE.01)
- Recognize that the Creed is composed of three sections according to the three persons of the Trinity. (DOL.5.GROW.CRE.02)
- Identify and discuss the four marks of the Church as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. (DOL.5.GROW.CRE.03)
- Learn prayers of the Church. (DOL.5.GROW.PRA.03)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority. (DOL.5.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Dt 6:4-9; Acts 2:42; Jn 20:24-29; 2 Thess 2:15; 1Tm 6:20-21
- CCC 26; 185-197
- Roman Missal
- Rite of Baptism - Baptismal promises

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers: Apostle's Creed and Nicene Creed

**Vocabulary**

- Creed: Apostle, Begotten (Christ is eternally begotten by the Father "before all ages". He is not created, there was never a time he did not exist.) Consubstantial (The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each fully the One God while simultaneously remaining three distinct persons.), Profession (of faith): A public witness to what we believe and live.)

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder, how are the Creeds a gift to us?
2. I wonder why we say the Creed together every week.
3. I wonder how we can make this prayer an important part of our lives.

Subject Matter: The Parousia

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent/Easter**

**Explanation/Proclamation:**

We live in joyful anticipation of the day when Christ will come again and God will be “all in all.” In the meantime, we prepare our hearts for that glorious day.

**Benchmark**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.5.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Revisit - Explore that at Parousia the Kingdom of God will come in its fullness and God will then be all-in-all. (This is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant.) (DOL.5.GROW.CRE.06)
- Describe that at the Parousia we will see as God sees and our bodies will perfectly reveal His love. (DOL.5.GROW.CRE.07)
- Describe how the celebration of the liturgical year helps us grow in faith. (DOL.5.GROW.SL.02)
- Practice lectio divina with the Sacred Scriptures. (DOL.5.GROW.PRA.02)

**WITNESS**

- Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people. (DOL.5.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - 1 Cor 15:28; Mt 25:1-13; Rev 21:1-7, 9-27; Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9
- CCC 364; 668-682; 988-1019; 1051-1060; 1402-1405.
- YC 158, 164
- Roman Missal/Ritual Books: [Second Epiclesis from Eucharistic Prayer 1](https://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/RM3-EP1-4.htm) (“Altar on high.”):<https://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/RM3-EP1-4.htm>

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers “Glory Be:
  - Reinforce the Apostles’ Creed (“From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead... I believe in ... the Resurrection on the body.”)
  - Reinforce the Nicene Creed (“ I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.”)

**Vocabulary**

- Parousia; Second-Coming; Revelation; Apocalypse; New Heaven; New Earth; Glorified Body

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how we can think of Jesus’ second coming as a gift.
2. I wonder what having a glorified body will be like.
3. I wonder how the new Heaven and the new Earth will be different from how they are now.
4. I wonder how Mass shows us what Heaven will be like?
5. I wonder what it will be like when God is “All in All”?

*Parish Lesson Guides*

# **Sixth Grade**

*Diocese of Lansing 2024*

**Subject Matter: Prayer****Suggested Liturgical Season: Beginning of the year.****Explanation/Proclamation**

Prayer is turning the heart toward God. When a person prays, he enters into a living relationship with the living God. (YC 469; cf. CCC 2558)

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.6.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.6.ENC.02)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.6.ENC.05)
- Experience an annual age-appropriate retreat offered by an experienced retreat team. The teacher/admin should participate with the children in the retreat. (DOL.6.ENC.08)

**GROW**

- Discuss the effectiveness of prayer. (DOL.6.GROW.PRA.02)
- Discuss the role of persistence in prayer to overcome difficulties. (DOL.6.GROW.PRA.01)
- Learn the prayers of the Church. (DOL.6.GROW.04)

**WITNESS**

- Take a leadership role in the prayer life of the school/parish (NSBECS 3.1). (DOL.6.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Luke 18:1-8
  - Holy Bible - with readings used around the Liturgical year
- CCC 2558-2565
- YC 469-479
- Roman Missal

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#); Echoing the Mystery: pg. 557

**Vocabulary**

- Psalms, Hymns

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how many ways there are to pray.
2. Does God speak to us when we pray? How?
3. When do you pray most often?
4. What if we don't get what we asked for?
5. What prayer makes us feel closer to God?

Subject Matter: Praying with the Psalms

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time (Beginning of the year)**

### Explanation/Proclamation

- The Psalms are ancient prayers of the Church that teach people of every time and place how to raise their minds and hearts to God.

### Benchmarks

#### ENCOUNTER

#### GROW

- Identify the Psalms as a collection of hymns or poetry collected over several centuries and used as the public prayer of the Church. (DOL.6.GROW.PRA.03)
- Participate in prayers learned in previous grades. Learning new prayers appropriate to age. (PRA.04)
- Learn the prayers of the Church. (DOL.6.GROW.04)

#### WITNESS

### Sources

- Scripture
- CCC 2585,2596, 1176-1178, 2657
- YC 473
- Roman Missal
- Magisterial Docs
- Books/articles
  - [Psalm Basics for Catholics - John Bergsma](#)
  - [Introduction to the Liturgy of the Hours](#)
- Breviary

### Resources

- Maps/Geography:
- Art: illustrating a passage from the Psalms
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers: suggested activity is allowing the students to spend time exploring the Psalms.

### Vocabulary

- Psalms, Liturgy of the Hours

### Reflection Questions

1. Who wrote the psalms? I wonder what inspired them.
2. I wonder how the psalms teach us to praise God, show our contrite heart, thank God, give our worries and/or intentions to God.
3. I wonder how the psalms are used during mass.
4. Why do we sing or chant the Psalms.
5. I wonder how we can use the psalms in our prayer services.
6. I wonder how we use the psalms to pray for others.

Subject Matter: Moses Bible Study. (4 Week Bible Study)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

Sixth Grade Bible Study: Moses

Instructions for Teachers:

Here you will find a collection of references for doing a Bible Study with your students. The mission is for you to lead your students through reading, pondering, and discussing these events recorded in this section of the Bible. All of the studies, from 4th through 7th grade focus on God's covenant relationship with man through particular mediators, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus. You will find a brief explanation of the story/events, all the Biblical references to read, and a list of references and resources you can use to prepare yourself.

**In the Resources section you will find a few books for your reference. These are chosen because they cover, in a very thorough yet concise way, each of these studies. You will find direct references to the relevant chapters in each of these books. You do not need to use every book. It is advisable to pick one and stick with it. The simplest one is Bible Basics for Catholics, by John Bergsma. This book includes simple stick-figure illustrations that the children could draw to help them learn the details of the studies. Bergsma intentionally included these for teachers and catechists. The most detailed one is Understanding the Scriptures by Scott Hahn, including lots of maps, charts, and artwork depicting scenes from these Bible stories.**

Since most of these studies involve multiple sections of Scripture, it would be best to spread these out over the course of weeks or months. The study intentionally correlates with the **Benchmarks** covering the sacrament for your grade so that you can integrate them together. This means the Bible study can be done at any point during the year and used as a reference point for other teachings included in the framework.

You will also find in your Sophia Institute textbook examples of artwork that could correlate with your study.

#### Overview of the Story

This Bible study should take four weeks to complete.

This Bible study on Moses will cover a portion of the book of Exodus. Exodus recounts how the Hebrew nation becomes God's chosen people through the covenant mediated by Moses. The first half is the historical record of the struggle to free God's people from Egypt and lead them into the desert where they encounter the presence of God at the foot of Mt. Sinai.

Here they receive from God instructions for a life centered on Him.

God intervenes throughout this account on behalf of his people to bring about His plan of salvation: God reveals his name to Moses and the Israelites, identifying himself with them above all other people on earth. God establishes the form of worship, based on ritual sacrifice that will shape Israel's worship for centuries to come. God fulfills his promise of land to Abraham by leading the Israelites into what is now known as the Holy Land. And here we are introduced to the ritual (sacrifice and meal) which foreshadows the greatest gift God offers man, the Holy Eucharist.

Benchmarks  
ENCOUNTER

GROW

- DOL.6.GROW.SCR.01, 03
- DOL.6.GROW.H.04
- DOL.6.GROW.CRE.01, 02
- DOL.6.GROW.SL.01, 02, 03
- DOL.6.GROW.SAC.02, 03, 04
- DOL.6.GROW.M.02

WITNESS

Primary Goals:

- To read about and reflect on the person of Moses and his commission from God to lead the people of Israel out of slavery to the Promised land.
- To recognize Moses as a man of prayer who depended on God's help and guidance.
- To lift up God's love and care for His people.
- To recognize ourselves in God's chosen people who are weak, and fail at times, to trust in God's will.
- To understand The Law (10 Commandments) as gift.
- To see ourselves as a sojourning people, like the Israelites, on their way to the Promised Land.

Secondary Goals:

- Hope
- Develop an understanding of the Jewish roots of our liturgy.
- To foster an understanding of covenant.
- To foster greater participation in the sacraments and the Easter Vigil
- The discovery that there is one history of salvation through which we are all connected.

**Methodology**

**Typology:** "the study of persons, places, events, and institutions in the Bible that foreshadow later, and greater realities made known by God in history." - Scott Hahn, Catholic Bible Dictionary, pg. 929. See also CCC 128

- Moses, a savior of the Hebrew people, foreshadows Jesus.
- The Burning Bush foreshadows the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- Ark of the Covenant, the vessel which carried the presence of God, foreshadows Mary.
- The Passover Lamb foreshadows, Jesus' sacrifice.
- The Passover meal foreshadows the Eucharist.
- Manna in the desert foreshadows the Eucharist.

**Biblical References:**

These are the Scripture references you and your students should read.

- Hebrew people in Egypt - Ex 1:8-22
- Birth of Moses - Ex 2:1-10
- Vocation of Moses - Ex 3:1-12, 4:13-19, 5:1-23
- Plagues - Ex 7:14-11:8
- Passover - 12:1-29
- Exodus - Ex 12:30-42
- Crossing of the Red Sea - Ex 14:15-31
- Canticle of Moses - Ex 15:1-2
- Bitter Water - Ex 15: 22-27
- Quail & Manna - Ex 16:1-20
- Water from the rock - Ex 17:1-7
- Victory of Amalek - Ex 17: 8-13

**Books (Choose one):**

1. Bible Basics for Catholics, Ch. 4, John Bergsma,
2. A Father Who Keeps His Promises, Chs. 7, 8, & 9, Scott Hahn
3. Understanding the Scriptures, A Complete Course on Bible Study, Ch. 7, Scott Hahn

**Catechism References:**

- CCC 62-63, 203-210, 2575-2577, 2810, 72, 2056-2082, 130, 1093-1095, 1151, 1221, 1334
- Easter Vigil Liturgy

**Suggested Resources:**

- Maps/Geography: Israel in Egypt
- Art: *The Binding of Isaac*
  - <https://www.artchive.com/>
  - <https://www.wga.hu/>

**Sacrament Correlations:**

- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- Holy Orders

**Assessments:**

These studies, as part of the new Religion Curriculum, seek to accomplish two goals for the students. One is that they encounter God and grow in the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love toward Him. These cannot be assessed through objective measures like tests. Teachers will instead observe their students to see if growth is happening.

The second goal is for the students to learn the actions and words of God throughout history along with their theological meaning. Teachers can assess their learning of these elements with objective measures. You may consider one of the following assessments for your students:

1. Can students recall the types and meanings of those types from the Bible Story?
2. Can students recall the symbols and their meaning? (you may include the drawing of the illustrations from Bible Basics for Catholic.)
3. Can students recall the major individuals and events of the story?

Subject Matter: God Created them Male and Female

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Anytime, earlier in the year is best.**

### Explanation/Proclamation

God, after creating man and woman, declared them “very good.”

### Benchmarks

#### ENCOUNTER

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.6.ENC.02)

#### GROW

- Discuss why it is a good thing that God created man as male and female. (DOL.6.GROW.CRE.03)
- Explain how man, as an image of the Trinity learns about himself through a gift of himself (TOB 8:4, 9:1-3, 10:1, 15:1). (DOL.6.GROW.M.04)

#### WITNESS

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)
- Participate in service to others and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and the mission of the school and parish. (NSBECS 3.3). (DOL.6.WIT.04)

### Sources

- Scripture - Gen 1:26-31, Gen 2:15-23,
- CCC 369-373, 382
- YC 64
- Roman Missal
- Magisterial Docs

### Resources

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers: [Theology Framework](#)

### Vocabulary

- Image, Dignity, Reverence, Community

### Reflection Questions

1. When God said “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness...(Gen 1:26) I wonder who the “us” and “our”, were that He was referring to? (The Holy Trinity, Community of persons)
2. How is being born male or female a gift, something to be cherished. What is good and unique about each?
3. How are we, male and female, like God? (In relationship, as a community of persons)
4. I wonder what other ways we are the “image & likeness” of God. How can we show that image to the world?

Subject Matter: Sin, Conversion, and Salvation

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Though all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, all can be saved through conversion and faith in Jesus.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.6.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.6.ENC.02)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.6.ENC.05)
- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.6.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Identify conversion as a turning away from sin and turning toward God. (DOL.6.GROW.CRE.02)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)
- Participate in service to others and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and the mission of the school and parish (NSBECS 3.3). (DOL.6.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - John 15: 1-11, Wedding Banquet - Mt 22:1-14, Lk 14:16-24, Romans 3:21-26, Ephesians 2:4
- CCC 1817-1821
- YC 89, 123,

**Resources**

- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers: Rite of Reconciliation/Examination of conscience

**Vocabulary**

- Sin, Salvation, Conversion, Justification- being made righteous.

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how we can recognize our actions are a sin against God.
2. I wonder what actions we do help us to stay close to God.
3. I wonder how we bring our white garment to God unstained.
4. I wonder how we are reconciled to God.
5. I wonder how the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a gift to us.
6. Why is Jesus the only one who can save us?

Subject Matter: Apostolic Succession

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Anytime**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

The Church is called apostolic because she was founded upon the apostles, holds fast to their Tradition, and is governed by their successors. (YC 137)

**Benchmarks**

ENCOUNTER

GROW

- Retell the calling of the Apostles, their selection and commission. (DOL.6.GROW.H.01)
- Discuss apostolic succession in the life of the Church. (DOL.6.GROW.H.02)

WITNESS

- Participate in service to others and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and the mission of the school and parish (NSBECS 3.3) (DOL.6.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Ep 2:20, Rev 21:14, Mt 28:6-20, Acts 1:8, 1Cor 9:1, 1Cor 15:7-8, Gal 1:1, Acts 2:42, Tim 1:13-14
- CCC 857-865
- YC 92, 137, 141
- Roman Missal
- Magisterial Docs

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online: [Apostolic Succession](#)
- Music:
- Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Disciple, Apostle, Apostolic, Bishop, Succession, Tradition

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why do you think Apostolic Succession is important in the Catholic Church?
2. What is the foundation of the Apostles? Why is it important?
3. What was unique about the 12 Apostles? (They were chosen by Jesus.)
4. I wonder how our bishop continues the mission of the Apostles.
5. Can the Catholic Church trace its lineage all the way back to Jesus? If so, how?
6. How does apostolic succession make the Catholic Church unique among all other churches? (It is the only one that can trace itself all the way back to Jesus.)

**Common Errors**

- "The Catholic Church is a man-made institution." Jesus founded the Church to carry His presence to all times and places.

Subject Matter: The Annunciation

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent**

#### **Explanation/Proclamation**

Through the message of an angel, God chose Mary to join in His work of salvation by becoming the mother of His Son, our Lord, Jesus. Mary, who loved and trusted God with all her heart, accepted His invitation as His humble servant, eager to do His will.

#### **Benchmarks**

##### **ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.6.ENC.02)

##### **GROW**

- Revisit the Infancy Narratives during Advent. (DOL.6.GROW.SCR.04)
- Build a communal prayer service for the liturgical season (DOL.6.GROW.PRA.05)

##### **WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)

#### **Sources**

- Scripture
  - Lk 1:26-38
- CCC 490, 430, 973, 2617
- Roman Missal
- Magisterial Docs

#### **Resources**

- Maps/Geography: Israel and Nazareth
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers: Hail Mary

#### **Vocabulary**

- Annunciation, Fiat, Virgin, Immaculate Conception

#### **Reflection Questions**

1. How does Mary's "yes" undo Eve's "no."
2. What does this passage tell us about how Jesus is human?
3. What does this passage tell us about how Jesus is divine?
4. What do the titles the angel gives Jesus mean?
5. Why was it important that Mary was a virgin and that she was without sin?

Subject Matter: The Nativity

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent/Christmas time, as your schedule permits.**

### Explanation/Proclamation

Through the message of an angel, God chose to announce the birth of the Savior of the world to lowly shepherds, who went in haste to see this child and then joyfully told all they encountered.

### Benchmarks

#### ENCOUNTER

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.6.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.6.ENC.02)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.6.ENC.05)

#### GROW

- Identify the mission of Jesus as Savior of all. (DOL.6.GROW.CRE.04)
- Define the Incarnation as the Son of God assuming a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. (DOL.6.GROW.CRE.05)

#### WITNESS

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)

### Sources

- Scripture
  - Lk 2:1-20
- CCC - 437, 525-526
- Roman Missal - Mass readings for Christmas
- Magisterial Docs

### Resources

- Maps/Geography: Israel, Nazareth, and Bethlehem
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers:

### Vocabulary

- Incarnation, Rejoice. Haste

### Reflection Questions

1. Why would it be unusual for the angels to give this message to the shepherds first?
2. Why does God call in a Host of Angels?
3. How did the shepherds respond?
4. And what did Mary do? ("And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart". Lk 2:19)
5. I wonder how Christmas and Easter are connected. How do both events connect to the Parousia?

**Subject Matter: The Epiphany****Suggested Liturgical Season: Epiphany (Christmas season)****Explanation/Proclamation**

Like the wise men adored the baby Jesus, we can adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.6.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.6.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Build a communal prayer service for the liturgical season. (DOL.6.GROW.PRA.05)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 2:1-12
- CCC 528
- Roman Missal - Mass readings of the season
- Magisterial Docs

**Resources**

Maps/Geography:

Art:

Online: [Pope Francis' 2021 Homily](#)

Music:

**Vocabulary**

- Homage, Magi, Prostrated, Frankincense, Myrrh, Adoration

**Reflection Questions**

1. What does it mean "to do him homage"?
2. How do we adore Jesus? Why is it important to spend time with Him in this way?
3. When do we see the priest lying prostrate?
4. Do we know who the ruler is who will "shepherd my people Israel"?
5. It says the Magi gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Do you think those are unusual gifts? Why do you think they gave those gifts? Could they have a special meaning

Subject Matter: Moral Parables

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Perfect during Lent**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

God's love and mercy are inexhaustible, but justice is also His. Our response to the gifts He offers us is key to our participation in the Kingdom of God and the preparation for the Heavenly banquet.

**Benchmarks**

ENCOUNTER

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.6.ENC.02)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.6.ENC.05)
- Experience and annual age-appropriate retreat offered by an experienced retreat team. The teacher/admin should participate with the children in the retreat. (DOL.6.ENC.08)

GROW

- Discuss and apply guidelines for using social media that are in accord with human dignity. (DOL.6.GROW.DIG.01)
- Define the common good. (DOL.6.GROW.DIG.02)
- Explain how the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching are carried out in our world. (DOL.6.GROW.DIG.03)
- Describe how the human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and why it is necessary to glorify God in your body. (DOL.6.GROW.DIG.04)
- Articulate that the desire to live a moral life is animated by one's friendship with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. (DOL.6.GROW.M.01)
- Identify the characteristics and value of honesty, self-discipline and respect for life, rights, and property of others. (DOL.6.GROW.M.05)
- Identify conversion as turning away from sin and turning to God. (DOL.6.GROW.CRE.02)

WITNESS

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)
- Take a leadership role in the prayer life of the school/parish (NSBECS 3.1). (DOL.6.ENC.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - The Debtors (Mt 18:23-35)
  - Workers in the Vineyard (Mt 20:1-16)
  - The 10 Bridesmaids (Mt 25:1-12)
  - The Wedding Banquet (Mt 22:1-14) (Lk 14:16-24)
  - The Talents (Mt 25:14-30) (Lk 19:12-27)
- CCC 1706, 1804-1811, 1828, 2045-2046
- YC 227, 340-343
- Roman Missal - Mass readings of the season

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Wedding garment, Talent, Debtor, Compassion, Laborer, Wage

**Reflection Questions**

Debtors

1. What did the servant who owed a huge amount ask for?
2. What did he receive? (More than he asked for)
  - i. I wonder why the king was so angry when he heard how the first servant had treated the second?
3. What do you think this tells us?

Workers in the Vineyard

1. How many times did the landowner go back to the marketplace to look for workers?
2. When it came time to pay the workers, what happened?
3. I wonder who the landowner is? How about the workers?
4. Who is invited to work in the vineyard?
5. How many times?

The Ten Bridesmaids

1. I wonder what this wedding banquet represents.
2. I wonder who the bridegroom represents?
3. Who do you think the bridesmaids represent?
4. Why was it so important to keep their lamps lit?

The Wedding Banquet

1. Who was the king having a banquet for?
2. Who did the king invite? How did they respond?
3. Then, who did the king invite?
4. I wonder why the wedding garment is so important.
5. I wonder what it represents.
6. What do you think the banquet represents?

The Talents

1. What is a talent?
2. Why do you think the man entrusted his money to his servants?
3. I wonder how he decided how much to give each servant.
4. What do you suppose he wanted them to do with it? Did they?
5. What can this tell us about the Kingdom of God?

Subject Matter: Theological Virtues (Faith, Hope, Love)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Any**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

The Theological virtues give us the grace we need to live a moral life.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.6.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Recall the Theological and Cardinal Virtues, their application, and their impact on the community. (DOL.6.GROW.MOR.03)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)
- Participate in service to others and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and the mission of the school and parish (NSBECS 3.3). (DOL.6.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - 1Cor 13:13, Rom 1:17, Gal 5:6, Mt 10:32-33, Heb 10:23, Titus 3:6-7, Rom 4:18, Rom 5:5, Heb 6:19-20, Jn 13:34, Jn 13:1, Jn 15:9-10, Rom 5:10, 1 Cor 13:4-7, 1Cor 13:13, Col 3:14
- CCC 1812-1829
- YC 305-309
- Roman Missal
- Magisterial Docs

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Faith, Hope, Charity, Virtue, Theological

**Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how virtues can help us in our everyday lives.
2. Which virtue do you think is the hardest to have?
3. Is there a virtue you think the world needs most?
4. Which virtue would you like more of?
5. I wonder how we recognize a virtuous behavior in others?

Subject Matter: Cardinal Virtues (Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance)

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Lent**

### **Explanation/Proclamation**

The virtuous man is he who freely practices the good. (CCC1803)

### **Benchmarks**

#### **ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.6.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.6.ENC.01)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.6.ENC.05)
- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.6.ENC.06)

#### **GROW**

- Define the common good. (DOL.6.GROW.DIG.02)
- Recall the Theological and Cardinal Virtues, their application, and their impact on the community (DOL.6.GROW.M.03)

#### **WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)
- Participate in service to others and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and mission of the school and parish (NSBECS 3.3). (DOL.6.WIT.04)

### **Sources**

- Scripture
  - Phil 4:8, Wis 8:7, Prov 14:15, 1Pet 4:7, Lev 19:15, Col 4:1, Ps 118:14, Jn 16:33, Sir 5:2, Sir 18:30, Titus 2:12
- CCC 1803-1833
- YC 300
- Roman Missal
- Magisterial Docs

### **Resources**

Maps/Geography:

Art:

Online:

Music:

Prayers:

### **Vocabulary**

Virtues, Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance

### **Reflection Questions**

1. I wonder how virtues can help us in our everyday lives?
2. Which virtue do you think is the hardest to live?
3. Is there a virtue you think the world needs most?
4. Which virtue would you like more of?

Subject Matter: Saints and Doctors of the Church

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Anytime**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

“The Doctors of the Church are teachers of the faith who have demonstrated exemplary holiness and have deepened the whole Church’s understanding of the Catholic faith.” -Msgr. Charles Pope

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Call upon the saints for their intercession (DOL.6.ENC.04)
- Contemplate that Jesus’ gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.6.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Explore Doctors of the Church. (DOL.6.GROW.H.03)
- Recognize the diversity of cultures and traditions within the Body of Christ. (DOL.6.GROW.H.04)

**WITNESS**

- Match individual talents and interests with needs of the community and reflect on service experiences in the light of the Gospel values that animate the school’s mission (NSBECS 3.3) (DOL.6.WIT.03)
- Take a leadership role in the prayer life of the school/parish (NSBECS 301) (DOL.6.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- CCC
- [Article from U.S. Catholic: Chronological List of Doctors of the Church](#)
- Roman Missal - Proper of Saints; Common Masses - Doctors of the Church
- The Doctors of the Church, Fr Christopher Rengers, O.F.M. Cap., Tan publishing.

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography
- Art
- Online:
- Music
- Prayers

**Vocabulary**

- Doctor of the Church. Orthodox, Intercession

**Reflection Questions**

1. How many doctors of the Church are there?
2. How are they chosen? What are the criteria?
3. How can they help us in our everyday lives?
4. I wonder what motivated these doctors to undertake such a work. I wonder how they were a gift to the world.
5. Do these doctors look alike? Did they all come from the same time and place? Why is that so important to all of us?

Subject Matter: Liturgy

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Anytime**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

In the holy liturgy, the Father makes possible our present participation in the work of the Trinity. Our greatest work in this life is to offer acceptable worship through Christ and become “other Christs” in the world. (Echoing the Mystery - pg 284)

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.6.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Define and discuss the Preface from the Roman Missal. (DOL.6.GROW.SL.04)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
- CCC 1077-1112
- YC 167-169
- Roman Missal
- Magisterial Docs
- Echoing the Mystery - Unlocking the Deposit of Faith in Catechesis, Barbara Morgan, Chapter 28 on Liturgy

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers: Prayers of the Mass

**Vocabulary**

- Liturgy, Worship, Trinity

**Reflection Questions**

1. What is the liturgy? (YC-167)
2. Why does the liturgy have priority in the life of the Church and of the individual? (YC-168)
3. What happens to us when we celebrate the liturgy? (YC-169)
4. What is the most profound origin of the liturgy? (YC-170)
5. What is the essence of every liturgy? (YC-171)

Subject Matter: The Passion (2 Week Lesson)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Lent/Easter**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (Jn 3:16)

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.6.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.6.ENC.02)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.6.ENC.05)
- Meditate on the Eucharistic prayers of the Roman Missal. (DOL.6.ENC.07)

**GROW**

- Participate in the Bible Study: Moses and the Covenant. (DOL.6.GROW.SCR.04)
- Explore the Last Supper and the washing of the Apostles feet in the Gospel of John. (DOL.6.GROW.SCR.05)
- Identify the mission of Jesus as Savior of all. (DOL.6.GROW.CRE.04)
- Define the Incarnation as the Son of God assuming a human nature to accomplish our salvation in it. (DOL.6.GROW.CRE.05)
- Discuss the signs, symbols, and events of the Easter Triduum. (DOL.6.GROW.SL.01)
- Define and discuss the Memorial (the Mystery of faith) from the Roman Missal. (DOL.6.GROW.SL.03)
- Define and discuss the Preface from the Roman Missal. (DOL.6.GROW.SL.04)

**WITNESS**

- Participate in service to others and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and the mission of the school and parish (NSBECS 3.3) (DOL.6.WIT.04)
- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations and prayer time. (DOL.K.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture - Mass Readings for Lent/Easter
  - Mt 27, Mk 15-16, Lk 22-24, Jn 13: 1-15 - The washing of the Disciples' feet, Lk 22:39-46 - Agony in the Garden, Mt 27:33-54 - Crucifixion and death of Jesus
- CCC - 606-630
- YC - 94-103, 277
- Roman Missal - Eucharistic Prayers

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography: Maps of Israel and Jerusalem in the time of Jesus, showing the temple, Ciaphas' house, Pilate's palace and the building where the Last Supper took place.
- Prayers: Apostles Creed, Psalm 22

**Vocabulary**

- Passion, Triduum, Paschal, Lent, Chrism Mass

**Reflection Questions**

1. What did Jesus hope to model for the Apostles by washing their feet? (YC-99)
2. Do you think that Jesus felt fear as he prayed on the Mt of Olives during his agony in the garden? (YC-100)
3. Did Jesus really die on the Cross? (YC-103)
4. Why did Jesus have to redeem us on the Cross of all places? (YC-101)

Subject Matter: The Eucharist

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Lent/Easter where time permits.**

### Explanation/Proclamation

Jesus loves us so much that He gives us His body and blood in the appearance of bread and wine, that we might receive Him lovingly and become what we eat.

### Benchmarks

#### ENCOUNTER

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.6.ENC.01)
- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.6.ENC.04)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.6.ENC.05)
- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.6.ENC.06)
- Meditate upon the Eucharistic Prayers of the Roman Missal. (DOL.6.ENC.07)

#### GROW

- Understand the importance of regular participation in the Sacraments and reflect upon how Christ is encountered in each sacrament. (DOL.6.GROW.SAC.01)
- Find and Discuss examples of Old Testament events that prefigure the Sacrament of the Eucharist. (DOL.6.GROW.SAC.02)
- Identify Gospel and other New Testament passages that reflect the institution of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. (DOL.6.GROW.SAC.03)
- Explain how the covenant is present between God and each person in the Sacraments. (DOL.6.GROW.SAC.04)

#### WITNESS

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)
- Take a leadership role in the prayer life of the school/parish (NSBECS 301). (DOL.6.WIT.03)

### Sources

- Scripture
  - Passover - Mt 26: 26-30, Last Supper - Mk 14: 22-26, Last Supper - Lk 22: 14-20, Genesis 14:18, Exodus- chapters 11 and 12,25:23-30, Leviticus 24:5-7, Numbers 4:7, Psalms 78: 24-25 and 105:40
- CCC 1322 -1344
- YC 208-212
- Roman Missal - Eucharistic prayers

### Resources

- Maps/Geography: Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus
- Prayers: Eucharistic Prayers, Our Father, Mystery of Faith, Lamb of God, Centurion Servant's Prayer

### Vocabulary

- Eucharist, Passover, Sacrament, Consecration, memorial

### Reflection Questions

1. I wonder why Jesus gave us His body and blood under the signs of bread and wine.
2. What does the word Eucharist mean?
3. What are other names for this sacrament? (CCC-1328-1332)
4. What do we receive in the Eucharist?
5. I wonder why it is important for us to receive this Sacrament often.
6. How is God's covenant present to each of us when we receive him in the Eucharist?
7. How is the mass like the Passover?
8. What does it mean when the Old Testament foreshadows the New Testament? What are some examples of foreshadowing of the Eucharist?

Subject Matter: The Resurrection

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Easter**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Christ is risen from the dead! Dying, he conquered death; To the dead, he has given life. (CCC 638)

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.6.ENC.01)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.6.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Discuss the signs, symbols, and events of the Easter Triduum. (DOL.6.GROW.SL.01)
- Explain how the covenant is present between God and each person in the Sacraments. (DOL.6.GROW.SAC.04)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 28: 1-8 - Resurrection of Jesus, Mk 16: 1-8, Lk 24: 1-12, Jn 20: 1-10 & Jn 20: 11-18
- CCC 638-658
- YC 104-108
- Roman Missal
- Magisterial Docs
- Mystery of Faith

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Resurrection, Christian, Paschal

**Reflection Questions**

1. Do you think Mary Magdalene and the others understood what had happened when the angel told them that Jesus was not there, that he had been raised?
2. I wonder why Mary Magdalene did not recognize Jesus until he spoke to her.
3. What did Mary Magdalene go to announce to the disciples?
4. How did Christ conquer sin and death by rising from the dead?

- Subject Matter: Pentecost (Optional Lesson)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Pentecost or at the end of the Religious Ed year.**

### Explanation/Proclamation

On Pentecost the Holy Spirit transformed fearful apostles into courageous witnesses to Christ. It was the birthday of the Church. (YC-118)

### Benchmarks

ENCOUNTER

GROW

- Build a communal prayer service for the liturgical season. (DOL.6.GROW.PRA.05)
- DOL.6.GROW.CRE.01 Identify God the Father as the Creator, Jesus as the Messiah and fulfillment of the Old Covenant, and the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier, the breath of life, and fire of love.

WITNESS

### Sources

- Scripture
  - Promise of the Spirit - Acts 1: 1-5, Ascension of Jesus - Acts 1: 6-12, Coming of the Spirit - Acts 2: 1-13, Charisms- 1 Corinthians 12:28
- CCC 731-741
- YC 118, 204
- Roman Missal
- Magisterial Docs

### Resources

- Maps/Geography: Maps of Jerusalem showing the house of the Upper Room.
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers: Come Holy Spirit

### Vocabulary

- Pentecost, Ascension, Paraclete (CCC-692), Charism

### Reflection Questions

1. Why do you suppose that Jesus told the Apostles to wait for the Spirit?
2. I wonder what the Apostles thought when they saw Jesus ascend into heaven.
3. What happened to the Apostles when the Holy Spirit descended upon them?
4. If you were there at that time, what would you do or think?
5. I wonder what Charisms are?

Subject Matter: The Father as Creator, Jesus as Messiah, Holy Spirit as Sanctifier & Fire of Love

### **Suggested Liturgical Season: Non-specific**

#### **Explanation/Proclamation**

“God is a Trinitarian communion of Persons whose life is love. He created us to share in this communion of love.” (Echoing the Mystery, Unlocking the Deposit of Faith in Catechesis, Barbara Morgan)

#### **Benchmarks**

##### **ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.6.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in Meditation (teacher guided or self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.6.ENC.02)
- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.6.ENC.06)

##### **GROW**

- CRE.01 - Identify God the Father as the Creator, Jesus as the Messiah and fulfillment of the Old Covenant, and the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier, the breath of life, and fire of love.

##### **WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.6.WIT.01)
- Take a leadership role in the prayer life of the school/parish (NSBECS 301). (DOL.6.WIT.03)

#### **Sources**

- Scripture
  - 1 John 4:7; Mat. 5:44-45
- CCC 232-236, 237, 249-256, 261, 265-266, 267
- YC- 35-39
- Roman Missal
- Magisterial Docs
- Echoing the Mystery

#### **Resources**

- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers: Holy Spirit Prayer, Nicene Creed

#### **Vocabulary**

- Creator, Messiah, Sanctifier, Trinity

#### **Reflection Questions**

1. What is the relationship between God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit?
2. Why is the name Messiah, proper to Jesus only? (CCC-436)
3. What images do we have of the Holy Spirit? (CCC-694-701)
4. I wonder how the Holy Spirit can help us fulfill the mission given to us by God in Jesus Christ?

*Parish Lesson Guides*

# **Seventh Grade**

*Diocese of Lansing 2024*

**Subject Matter: Prayer****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

Prayer is the foundation of my relationship with Jesus.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.7.ENC.01)
- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.7.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Identify familiar prayers of New Testament figures. (DOL.7.GROW.PRA.01)
- Analyze the seven petitions of the Our Father. (DOL.7.GROW.PRA.02)
- Review and revise plan for personal daily prayer. (DOL.7.GROW.PRA.03)
- Participate in prayers learned in previous grades. Learning new prayers appropriate to age. (DOL.7.GROW.PRA.04)
- Build and lead communal prayer service for the school community. Students should be allowed to decide what prayer is used and for what they are praying. (DOL.7.GROW.PRA.05)

**WITNESS**

- Design and organize student-directed service projects. (DOL.7.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 6:9-15
- CCC 2623-2649, 2564-2565

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online
- Music:
- Prayers: How to Pray, C.S. Lewis, The Basic Book of Catholic Prayer; Lawrence G. Lovasik

**Vocabulary**

- Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving, Praise Lectio Divina

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder if I can make up my own prayers, or if I have to use “official” prayers of the Church.
2. How can I pray not just for people but with people?
3. What is your favorite way to pray?

**Common Errors:**

- “Catholics only pray prayers given by the Church.” Catholics are taught specific prayers but are also encouraged to pray from the heart as well as spend time in adoration, sitting at the feet of Christ.
- “God doesn’t hear me when I pray.” God hears all prayers and answers them in ways that are best for us. We are not God and do not always understand His ways, but we must trust and have faith in Him.

**Subject Matter: David Bible Study. (4 Week Bible Study)**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

Seventh Grade Bible Study: David

Instructions for Teachers:

Here you will find a collection of references for doing a Bible Study with your students. The mission is for you to lead your students through reading, pondering, and discussing these events recorded in this section of the Bible. All of the studies, from 4th through 7th grade focus on God's covenant relationship with man through particular mediators, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus. You will find a brief explanation of the story/events, all the Biblical references to read, and a list of references and resources you can use to prepare yourself.

**In the Resources section you will find a few books for your reference. These are chosen because they cover, in a very thorough yet concise way each of these studies. You will find direct references to the relevant chapters in each of these books. You do not need to use every book. It is advisable to pick one and stick with it. The simplest one is Bible Basics for Catholics, by John Bergsma. This book includes simple stick-figure illustrations that the children could draw to help them learn the details of the studies. Bergsma intentionally included these for teachers and catechists. The most detailed one is Understanding the Scriptures by Scott Hahn, including lots of maps, charts, and artwork depicting scenes from these Bible stories.**

Since most of these studies involve multiple sections of Scripture, it would be best to spread these out over the course of weeks or months. The study intentionally correlates with the **Benchmarks** covering the sacrament for your grade so that you can integrate them together. This means the Bible study can be done at any point during the year and used as a reference point for other teachings included in the framework.

You will also find in your Sophia Institute textbook examples of artwork that could correlate with your study.

Overview of the Story

This is the final Covenant in the Old Testament before Jesus' coming to fulfill them all. This involves the development of the nation of Israel into a Kingdom. God establishes a King of many nations, who becomes the most beloved king of Israel and most important, being mentioned in the Old Testament over 1,000 times.

King David, who was from Bethlehem (meaning "house of bread"), was a shepherd who, as king, unified the twelve tribes of Israel, making Jerusalem its capital.

David was a model of worship for his people, introducing Music: and songs to worship and becoming the first writer of Psalms

**Benchmark Correlations:**

## ENCOUNTER

## GROW

- Participate in Bible Study: David and the Covenant. Typology: Everlasting Kingdom, Messianic entrance into Jerusalem, The Queen Mother, Son of God. (DOL.7.GROW.SCR.01)
- Revisit the Incarnation during Advent: Identify and discuss how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. (DOL.7.GROW.SCR.02)
- Compare sins of omission and sins of commission. (DOL.7.GROW.M.01)
- Discuss the consequences of sin to individuals and to the whole body of Christ. (DOL.7.GROW.M.02).
- Recall that the basis of the Church's moral teaching in the commandments and the Beatitudes. (DOL.7.GROW.M.03)
- Recall the cardinal virtues, the theological virtues, and become aware of the seven capital sins. (DOL.7.GROW.M.04)

## WITNESS

**Primary Goals:**

- To ponder the life of David - his life as a shepherd, his anointing as king, and his ruling of Israel.
- To ponder David's trust in God's covenant of an everlasting kingship/kingdom
- To ponder David's role as a prophet.
- To offer David as a model of faith.
- To ponder David as a sinner who humbly seeks God's mercy
- To ponder our own response to God's Covenant.

**Secondary Goals:**

- To connect the anointing with oil to Confirmation
- To know David as 1st writer of Psalms
- To lift up David as one who modeled and made divine worship the center of national life.
- To know David as "a sign of one to come".

**Methodology:**

**Typology:** the study of persons, places, events, and institutions in the Old Testament that foreshadow later and greater works of God in history. - Scott Hahn, Catholic Bible Dictionary, pg. 929. See also CCC 128.

- Son of David, Solomon is the great wise King of Israel foreshadows Jesus, the Messiah
- The Kingdom of Israel foreshadows the Kingdom of God
- David's throne will last forever foreshadows Jesus' eternal reign as King of Creation
- Wisdom of David foreshadows the wisdom of Jesus

**Biblical References:**

- 1 Sam 16:4-13 - Anointing of David as King
- 1 Sam 17:4-11, 20-54 - David Fights Goliath
- 1 Sam 18:10-16, 28; 19:8-16 - Saul GROWS Jealous of David and David Escapes Saul
- 1 Sam 21:1-7 - David and the Holy Bread
- 1 Sam 23:25-28; 24:2-23 -David as a Fugitive
- 1 Sam 31:2-6 - Death of Saul
- 1 Chronicles 11:1-9; 12:17-20, 23, 29-40 David as King of Judea and Israel
- 1 Chronicles 13:1-8; 15:1-4, 25-16:3; Psalm 96 The Transfer of the Ark to Jerusalem and David's Praise
- 2 Sam 7:8-16, 7:18, 22-29 - Davidic Covenant
- 2 Sam 11:1-5, 14-17, 26-27; 12:7-25
- 1 Chronicles 22:2-5, 28:1-10; 20-21 - Material for the Temple and Entrusting Solomon
- 1 Chronicles 29:10-13, 20-22 - David's Blessing
- 1 Chronicles 29:22-25 - Solomon Anointed
- 1 Chronicles 29:26-30
- David (Role of Prophet) - Psalm 2:6-9, 22, 23, 32:3-11, 34:12-23; 104, 145

**Books (Choose One):**

- Bible Basics for Catholics, Ch. 5, John Bergsma
- A Father Who Keeps His Promises, Chs. 10 & 11, Scott Hahn
- Understanding the Scriptures, A Complete Course on Bible Study, Ch. 10, Scott Hahn
- David the King , Bishop Barron

**CCC references:**

- CCC 2585, 2596

**Suggested Resources:**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
  - <https://www.artchive.com/>
  - <https://www.wga.hu/>

**Sacrament Correlations:**

- Confirmation
- Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick

**Assessments:**

These studies, as part of the new Religion Curriculum, seek to accomplish two goals for the students. One is that they encounter God and grow in the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love toward Him. These cannot be assessed through objective measures like tests. Teachers will instead observe their students to see if growth is happening. Teachers can ask what thoughts or feelings are inspired by the Bible passages. There are no right or wrong answers to these.

The second goal is for the students to learn the actions and words of God throughout history along with their theological meaning. Teachers can assess their learning of these elements with objective measures. You may consider one of the following assessments for your students:

1. Can students recall the types and meanings of those types from the Bible Story?
2. Can students recall the symbols and their meaning? (You may include the drawing of the illustrations from Bible Basics for Catholic.)
3. Can students recall the major individuals and events of the story?

Subject Matter: Miracles. (2 Week Lesson)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus still wants to perform miracles today!

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.7.ENC.04)
- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.7.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Explore the miracles of Jesus: A sign or wonder, such as a healing or the control of nature, which can only be attributed to divine power. The miracles of Jesus were messianic signs of the presence of God's kingdom. (DOL.7.GROW.SCR.04)

**WITNESS**

- Design and organize student-directed service projects. (DOL.7.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Acts 5:12
- CCC 547-548
- YC 91

**Resources**

- *Be Healed*, Bob Schuchts
- *Compendium of the Miraculous*, Deacon Albert Graham
- *Eucharistic Miracles*, Joan Carroll Cruz

**Vocabulary**

- Miracle, Healing, Supernatural

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder if miracles still happen today.
2. Is there someone I know who needs a miracle?
3. I wonder why Jesus doesn't always perform miracles.

**Common Errors:**

- "People can perform miracles on their own without Jesus. "Only God/Jesus can perform miracles.
- "Miracles don't happen anymore." Miracles happen all of the time, we just need to look and accept them as miracles.

**Subject Matter: The Beatitudes. (2 Week Lesson)****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

The Beatitudes are God's answer to our natural desire for happiness, which He has placed in our hearts.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.7.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Identify saints who lived the Beatitudes. Allow students to explore their own saints to study during each day of this lesson. (DOL.7.GROW.H.01)
- Recall that the basis of the Church's moral teaching in the commandments and the Beatitudes. (DOL.7.GROW.M.03)
- Apply Jesus' teaching from the Sermon on the Mount as a way of life. (DOL.7.GROW.M.05)
- Identify that following the law of God leads to true freedom and happiness. (DOL.7.GROW.M.07)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.7.WIT.01)
- Design and organize student-directed service projects. (DOL.7.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt. 5:1-12
- CCC 1716-1729

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online: [Lead me Lord](#), John Becker
- Music:
- Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Poor in Spirit, Pure in Heart, Righteousness

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder what the reaction of the crowd was during the Sermon on the Mount
2. Which beatitude do I need to cultivate most in my life?
3. How do the beatitudes help me to live in the kingdom of God?
4. I wonder why Jesus reveals to us the beatitudes.
5. Who are Saints that model each beatitude? I wonder, do we recognize people who are living these out today?

**Common Errors:**

- Poor in Spirit is not the same as financially poor.

**Subject Matter: Reformation****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

The Protestant Reformation was a religious movement in the 16th century which challenged certain essential Christian doctrines, resulting in new branches of Christianity and called "Protestantism."

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.7.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Discuss the Reformation and the development of Protestant churches. (DOL.7.GROW.H.02)
- Define Sacred Tradition as the living transmission of the Church's doctrine, life and worship and discuss how Catholic tradition and culture are related. (DOL.7.GROW.CRE.02)
- Understand the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church and explain its role and authority. (DOL.7.GROW.CRE.06)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.7.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt. 18:15-18, Mt. 16:18-19
- CCC 819
- The Documents of Vatican II; Dei Verbum 10; "It is clear, therefore, that sacred tradition, Sacred Scripture and the teaching authority of the Church, in accord with God's most wise design, are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the others, and that all together and each in its own way under the action of the one Holy Spirit contribute effectively to the salvation of souls."

**Resources**

- Online: [The Reformation](#)
- Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Protestantism, rejection, disobedience, doctrine, fullness of truth (While elements of the truth are found in other denominations and religions, only the Catholic Church possesses the fullness of truth.)

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder why the reformation started.
2. Why is obedience an important virtue?
3. Are there truths or practices we can learn from our protestant brothers and sisters?

**Common Errors:**

- The bible is the only authority for all matters of faith, rejecting Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium.
- Salvation comes from grace and faith in Jesus alone, rejecting the doctrine of faith and good works, which is a response to God's grace.

Subject Matter: Deposit of Faith

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

As Catholics we believe that both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence and are the living transmission of the Church's Doctrine.

**Benchmarks**

ENCOUNTER

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.7.ENC.05)

GROW

- Define the Deposit of Faith as Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition - the source of all Revelation. (DOL.7.GROW.CRE.01)
- Define Sacred Tradition as the living transmission of the Church's doctrine, life and worship and discuss how Catholic tradition and culture are related. (DOL.7.GROW.CRE.02)

WITNESS

- Match individual talents and interests with the needs of the community and reflect on service experiences in the light of the Gospel values that animate the school's mission (NSBECS 3.3). (DOL.7.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- CCC 84
- YC 11-14

**Resources**

Maps/Geography:

Art:

Online: [Fr. Mike Schmitz on the Deposit of Faith](#)

Music:

Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Tradition, Deposit of Faith

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What is Sacred Tradition and where does it come from?
2. How is the Deposit of Faith the source of all Revelation?

**Common Errors:**

The ideas that Sacred Scripture is the only source of our faith or that sacred Tradition is the only source of our faith will lead to a lack in the richness that both have to offer and leave our faith incomplete.

**Subject Matter: Confirmation (4 Week Lesson)****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes and strengthens the graces given at Baptism through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, equipping the recipient for apostolic mission.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.7.ENC.04)
- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.7.ENC.06)
- Meditate upon the prayers of the Rite of Confirmation and the Blessing of Chrism. (DOL.7.ENC.07)
- Experience an annual age-appropriate retreat offered by an experienced retreat team. The teacher/admin should participate with the children in the retreat. (DOL.7.ENC.08).

**GROW**

- DOL.7.GROW. SAC. 01-05, SL. 01-03

**WITNESS**

- DOL.7.WIT 02, 03, 04

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Bible: Passages on Pentecost/Holy Spirit: Acts 2:1-13 · Exodus 34:22-35 · Acts 2:33 · Acts 4:31, Acts 11:15 · John 14:16 · John 14:26 · Romans 15:13.
- CCC 1285-1321
- Prayers of Consecration for Chrism Oil from Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday.

**Resources**

Prayers: Rite of Confirmation

**Vocabulary**

- Holy Spirit, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, mission, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord, Sacrament, Confirmation, Chrism, Consecration, Charism

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What does receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation mean to you? How do you see receiving this sacrament changing your life?
2. How is this sacrament a completion of my Baptism?
3. Can you list the gifts of the Holy Spirit and explain what they are and how they can help you in your life?
4. Why is service to others important? As a group, can we organize a service project and carry it out?
5. How do we find our charisms and use them to share Christ with others?
6. What mission am I set upon?
7. What does God do in the Sacrament of Confirmation?

**Common Errors:**

- *“Confirmation is the end of my Faith Formation.”* Confirmation is not graduation; it is a Sacrament of Initiation. We are called to grow our faith throughout our entire life.

Subject Matter: Church Structure and Lay Ministry

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

There are many roles in the Catholic Church, for ordained, and non-ordained people. We work together to form one Body of Christ, with Jesus as our head.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.7.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Understand the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church and explain its role and authority. (DOL.7.GROW.CRE.06)
- Recognize the talents, gifts, fruits, and charisms within the Body of Christ. (DOL.7.GROW.H.03)
- Identify and describe lay ministerial roles and their service to the Church. (DOL.7.GROW.SAC.05)
- Examine characteristics of vocations to the married, consecrated, or ordained life, in reflection of how each vocation contributes to the community. (DOL.7.GROW.SAC.06)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.7.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- CCC:77,85-100,

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art: Drawing a pyramid of the church, making sure to include the laity.
- Online: About Catholics [“Church Structural Roles”](#)
- Music:
- Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Laity, Religious, Ordained, Lay Ministry

**Reflection Questions:**

1. There are many roles/ministries in the Church, name and describe as many as you can
2. What does it mean to be a part of the Body of Christ? Are some members more important than others?
3. Reflect on your talents and charisms and make a list of roles you may want to do now and in the future.

**Common Errors:**

“Church Structure is there to limit and control the people of the church.” Church structure is there to protect us and guide us and was set up by the original Church leaders. It also helps assure that all Catholic Churches are teaching the truth and not going off on tangents that are incorrect. It is not there to control us or limit what we can teach and learn.

## 4. Subject Matter: Paschal Mystery

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Lent-Easter****Explanation/Proclamation**

The Paschal Mystery is Christ's work of redemption accomplished principally by his Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension, whereby "dying he destroyed our death, rising he restored our life."

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.7.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Revisit the Paschal Mystery during Lent. (DOL.7.GROW.SCR.03)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.7.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Gospel accounts of Jesus' passion, death, resurrection, and ascension
- YC 94-105
- CC 554-657

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online:
- Music:
- Prayers: Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Mysteries, Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary  
Quiet time in prayer

**Vocabulary**

- Paschal Mystery, Passion, Resurrection, Ascension, Redemption

**Reflection Questions:**

1. How did God redeem the world?
2. Why was this necessary?
3. What does this mean to us? To me?

**Subject Matter: Catholic social teaching (2 Week Lesson)**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom, helping Catholics build a just society and live lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. There are seven key themes that are the heart of our Catholic Social Teaching.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.7.ENC.04)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.7.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Identify principles of social justice (CCC 2419-3435). (DOL.7.GROW.M.09)
- Defend the concept of human dignity based on the life and teachings of Jesus. (DOL.7.GROW.DIG.01)
- Identify some basic rights of all human persons and identify examples of how every human right has a corresponding responsibility. (DOL.7.GROW.DIG.02)

**WITNESS**

- Design and organize student-directed service projects DOL.7.WIT.03 Match individual talents and interests with the needs of the community and reflect on service experiences in the light of the Gospel values that animate the school's mission. (NSBECS 3.3). (DOL.7.WIT.02)
- Participate in service projects. (DOL.7.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt 22:37-39 (two great commandments), Mt 5:6 (Beatitudes),
- YC 323-332
- CCC: 2419-2463
- [USCCB Catholic Social Teaching](#)

**Resources**

- Online: clips that highlight certain aspects of CST

**Vocabulary**

- Social Justice, Human Dignity, Vulnerable, Solidarity,

**Reflection Questions:**

1. Why does each person have human dignity from God and what does this mean?
2. How does God call us to treat each other and why?
3. Why is it so important that we protect the vulnerable?
4. Can we work together to plan an event that helps fulfill one of these principles of CST?

**Subject Matter: Living a Moral Life****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

When we live a life of self-mastery, we are free to make a full gift of self, using God's guidance and our conscience to guide us toward moral choices.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.7.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Apply Jesus' teaching from the Sermon on the Mount as a way of life. (DOL.7.GROW.M.05)
- Understand the role of conscience in moral decision-making. (DOL.7.GROW.M.06)
- Describe how actions of self-mastery free one to make a full gift of self, and with guidance, begin to self-evaluate actions of self-mastery within the virtue of Temperance. (DOL.7.GROW.M.08)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.7.WIT.01)
- Participate in service projects. (DOL.7.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- CCC:1750-1845
- YC: 333-334
- Review of the Beatitudes from earlier in the year

**Resources**

- Journaling
- Time in reflective prayer
- Role playing to discern moral choices.

**Vocabulary**

- Moral, Virtues, Conscience

**Reflection Questions:**

1. Why would we want to live a moral life?
2. What does it mean to live a life of self-mastery? Can we talk about how we can go about this?
3. What does it mean to us that our conscience is a gift from God to help us make good choices?
4. What can we do personally to help us trust God and our consciences more than we already do?
5. When we are faced with decisions, do we react or choose our plan of action? What does this look like? Are we happy with the outcomes?

**Common Errors**

"All good people go to heaven"

Subject Matter: Christian Happiness

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary**

### Explanation/Proclamation

When we follow God's law and live as He teaches, we can live a life of true happiness and joy that is everlasting.

### Benchmarks

#### ENCOUNTER

- Meditate upon the prayers of the Rite of Confirmation and the Blessing of Chrism. (DOL.7.ENC.07)
- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.7.ENC.05)

#### GROW

- Review and revise plan for personal daily prayer. (DOL.7.GROW.PRA.03)
- Identify that following the law of God leads to true freedom and happiness. (DOL.7.GROW.M.07)
- Because of concupiscence man needs to bring emotions and desires into harmony with what is truly good. (DOL.7.GROW.M.10)
- Compare and contrast Christian and secular norms for "happiness" and "success". (DOL.7.GROW.DIG.03)

#### WITNESS

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.7.WIT.01)

#### Sources

- Scripture
  - John 15:1-11
- CCC: 1697,1718,2546, 27,30,384,1028,1035,1723,33,1716-19,1818,2548
- YC: 3,57,281-285, 468

#### Resources

- Journaling
- Personal Artwork
- Prayer

#### Vocabulary

- Joy, Happiness, Beatitude, God's Law

#### Reflection Questions:

1. What is the difference between the joy and happiness we receive from God and the joy and happiness we receive from the world?
2. When we live in God's everlasting happiness, do we still feel pain, anger, anxiety? What are your thoughts on this?
3. Why would we want to have God's joy?
4. I wonder what that would be like.
5. I wonder how we can have joy during times of pain, anger, and anxiety?

#### Common Errors

"God protects us from all hard and sad times when we trust in Him." Accepting God's joy doesn't mean we live a perfect life and are always happy. What it means is that God is there to help us through the hard times. We feel those hard emotions, but with an underlying sense of God's steady love and joy.

*Parish Lesson Guides*

# **Eighth Grade**

*Diocese of Lansing 2024*

**Subject Matter: Prayer****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

When we attentively lift our hearts and minds to God in prayer, we hear what His plan is for our lives.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.8.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Explore the Liturgy of the Hours. (DOL.8.GROW.PRA.01)
- Explore the Prayers of the Old Testament Prophets and Patriarchs. (DOL.8.GROW.PRA.02)
- Review and revise plan for personal daily prayer. (DOL.8.GROW.PRA.03)

**WITNESS**

- Design and organize student-directed service projects. (Attention should be given to grounding the project in prayer.) (DOL.8.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt. 6:5-18
- CCC 2558-2565
- YC 469-470
- Liturgy of the Hours Book Set

**Resources**

Maps/Geography:

Art:

Online:

Music:

Prayers: [Liturgy of the Hours](#), I Breviary App

**Vocabulary**

- Blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder how I can hear God's voice when I pray?
2. How does God speak to us?
3. What is the setting or type of prayer that helps me to draw closer to God?
4. Is there a type of prayer I am uncomfortable with?
5. What are some things that prevent us from listening to God's voice in prayer?
6. St Paul tells us to pray without ceasing, is that possible?

**Common Errors:**

*"Prayer is simply asking for what we want."* Prayer is not just asking for what we want and need, it is a conversation with God that also includes praise, thanksgiving, and contrition,

**Subject Matter: Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles (4 Week Lesson)**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

Eighth Grade Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles

Instructions for Teachers:

Here you will find a collection of references for doing a Bible Study with your students. The mission is for you to lead your students through reading, pondering, and discussing these events recorded in this section of the Bible. All of the studies, from 4th through 7th grade focus on God's covenant relationship with man through particular mediators, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus. You will find a brief explanation of the story/events, all the Biblical references to read, and a list of references and resources you can use to prepare yourself.

**In the Resources section you will find a few books for your reference. These are chosen because they cover, in a very thorough yet concise way each of these studies. You will find direct references to the relevant chapters in each of these books. You do not need to use every book. It is advisable to pick one and stick with it. The simplest one is Bible Basics for Catholics, by John Bergsma. This book includes simple stick-figure illustrations that the children could draw to help them learn the details of the studies. Bergsma intentionally included these for teachers and catechists. The most detailed one is Understanding the Scriptures by Scott Hahn, including lots of maps, charts, and artwork depicting scenes from these Bible stories.**

Since most of these studies involve multiple sections of Scripture, it would be best to spread these out over the course of weeks or months. The study intentionally correlates with the **Benchmarks** covering the sacrament for your grade so that you can integrate them together. This means the Bible study can be done at any point during the year and used as a reference point for other teachings included in the framework.

You will also find in your Sophia Institute textbook examples of artwork that could correlate with your study.

Overview of the Story

This study recounts the birth and history of the early Church and how it continues Jesus' mission of salvation. You will trace the growth of the Church beginning with Pentecost, continuing with the life of the followers of Jesus; through the persecution of Christians by Saul, including the arrest and martyrdom of Stephen. Saul then experiences conversion and becomes the Apostle Paul, who embarks on three missionary journeys to start churches throughout the Middle East.

We should explain Pentecost as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit, and the role and power of the Holy Spirit within the early Church. The link below does a great job of explaining how the Old Testament is fulfilled at Pentecost in the New Testament. The failures and offenses made by the Israelites in the Old Testament are made up for and restored in the New Testament.

We should also note that the covenants in the Old Testament are made with God. Families are

created and made bigger each time a covenant is made with God. In the New Testament the covenant is made with Jesus who invites the entire world into His family; the end for which we are all created.

### Benchmark Correlations:

#### GROW

- DOL.8.GROW.SCR.03, 04, 05, 06, 07
- DOL.8.GROW.H.02, 05
- DOL.8.GROW.CRE.05
- DOL.8.GROW.SCR.03
- DOL.8.GROW.M.03

#### Primary Goals:

- To ponder the action of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- To ponder the acts and unified mission of the Apostles after the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them at Pentecost.
- To reflect on the conversion and missionary journeys of St. Paul.

#### Secondary Goals:

- Expressions of Hope
- To reflect on our response to the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- To consider our role in the mission of Jesus in bringing about the Kingdom of God.

### Methodology:

**Typology:** “the study of persons, places, events, and institutions in the Bible that foreshadow later and greater realities made known by God in history.” - Scott Hahn, Catholic Bible Dictionary, pg. 929. See also CCC 128 and pg. 38 of Understanding the Scriptures.

- Here you will see events of the early Church that bring into fruition events from the Old Testament
- The theme of the book of Acts is the “kingdom of God”.
- OT/NT correlations for Pentecost (32 minutes)
  - <https://www.scienceofsainthood.com/blog/the-amazing-old-testament-backstory-of-pentecost>

### Biblical References:

- Choosing of Matthias to replace Judas.
  - Acts 1:12-26
  - Psalm 109:8, Psalm 69:25 (OT correlation)
- Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13)
- Peter addresses the Crowd (Acts 2:14-42)
- Life among the Believers (Acts 2:43-47)
- Apostles Imprisoned and brought before the Council (Acts 5:17-32)
- Arrest of Stephen (1st Martyr) (Acts 6:8-15)
- Death of Stephen (Acts 7:54-60)
- Saul – Persecution (Acts 8:1-3)
- Saul – Conversion (Acts 9: 1-18)
- Paul's Journeys (Acts 13-14); (Acts 15:39-18:22); (Acts 18:23-21:160); (Acts 27-28:16)

- **Books (choose one):**

1. New Testament Basics for Catholics, Ch. 4, John Bergsma
2. A Father Who Keeps His Promises, Ch12 (pg. 237-243) Scott Hahn
3. Understanding the Scriptures, Ch. 24 & 25, Scott Hahn

**CCC references:**

- CCC 75-77
  - 857-862
  - 981, 982
  - 1444-1445
  - 1485
  - 2624

**Suggested Resources:**

## Maps:

- Apostles early travels
- Paul's Missionary Journeys

## Artwork/Sacred Images:

- <https://www.artchive.com/>
- <https://www.wga.hu/>

**Sacrament Correlations:**

- Matrimony
- Anointing of the Sick
- Confirmation

**Assessments:**

These studies, as part of the new Religion Curriculum, seek to accomplish two goals for the students. One is that they encounter God and grow in the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love toward Him. These cannot be assessed through objective measures like tests. Teachers will instead observe their students for fruits that may be attributed to having been a part of this study. Teachers can ask what thoughts or feelings are inspired by the Bible passages. There are no right or wrong answers to these types of questions.

The second goal is for the students to learn the actions and words of God throughout history along with their theological meaning. Teachers can assess their learning of these elements with objective measures. You may consider one of the following assessments for your students:

1. Can students recall the types and their meaning from the Bible Story?
2. Can students recall the symbols and their meaning? (you may include the drawing of the illustrations from Bible Basics for Catholics.)
3. Can students recall the major individuals and events of the story?

**Subject Matter: Baptism****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

Baptism washes away original sin and initiates the Baptized into the Body of Christ as God's children.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. (DOL.8.GROW. M.02, M.05, M.07, M 08, M 10)

**GROW**

- Recall how Baptism connects him/her to a universal community of believers beginning with their own parish community and includes a call to transform the world through the Gospel. (DOL.8.GROW.SAC.07)
- Recognize how baptism restores the special relationship God has with His sons and daughters, as this relationship was first realized in original solitude. (DOL.8.GROW.DIG.01)
- Discuss the Holy Spirit as the giver of life and Sanctifier of the World. (DOL.8.GROW.CRE.05)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.8.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt. 28:19, Acts 2:38-41, 1 Peter 3:21
- CCC 1213
- YC 130,151,172,193, 194-202

**Resources**

Online: [Sophia SketchPad: Baptism](#), [Ascension Press "Ultimate Guide to Catholic Baptism"](#), Fr. Mike Schmitt ["Are You a Child of God"](#)

**Vocabulary**

- Baptism, Baptize, Initiation, Original Sin, Body of Christ

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder why Adam and Eve committed the first sin when they had everything they needed?
2. Where do we see the Sacrament of Baptism Prefigured in the Old Testament?
3. I wonder, what does it mean to me to be part of the Body of Christ?

**Common Errors:**

- "We can be baptized more than once. "When we are Baptized, we become a member of the Body of Christ and our original sin is forgiven, there is no need to repeat our Baptism as these gifts are forever.
- "Once a person is baptized, they are automatically saved"

Subject Matter: The Body of Christ Suggested

**Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

We are all one Body of Christ through our baptism, and we are united in our responsibility for each other and all of humanity.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.8.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Define and provide examples of social sin. (DOL.8.GROW.M.01)
- Describe how members of the Body of Christ share responsibility for each other and all of humanity. See Bible Study: Acts. (DOL.8.GROW.M.03)
- Explore the natural law. (DOL.8.GROW.M.04)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.8.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Colossians 3:14-16, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Romans 12:4-5 Plus many more passages- mostly from St. Paul and his letters.
- CCC 521,787-798,
- YC 126-128

**Resources**

Art: Use [Body of Christ art print by Danny Hahlbohm](#) online to discuss

**Vocabulary**

Body of Christ, Humanity, Social Sin, Natural Law

**Reflection Questions:**

1. How do we become members of the Body of Christ?
2. What is natural law and how does it relate to being a member of the Body of Christ?
3. How do our decisions affect others?
4. What is involved in making good moral choices?

**Common Errors:**

- *"Our sins only affect ourselves, not others, so we can do what makes us happy."* The decisions we make often affect others since we live in community with others, and not an isolated life.

**Subject Matter: Saints - Beatitudes****Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time****Explanation/Proclamation**

Many Saints exemplified how to live the beatitudes as they grew in holiness.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.8.ENC.04)

**GROW**

- Identify saints who lived the Beatitudes and assisted in the growth of religious life in the Church (i.e., St. Anthony the Hermit, St. Benedict & St. Scholastica; St. Francis of Assisi & St. Clare, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Dominic, St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Calcutta). (DOL.8.GROW.H.03)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.8.WIT.01).

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt. 5:3-12
- CCC 1716-1729

**Resources**

- The Eight Doors of the Kingdom: Meditations on the Beatitudes, Jacques Philippe  
Unwavering: Bethany Dillon, <https://youtu.be/sjcSwiiTOv0?si=eHyNYcwkPputQODP>

**Vocabulary**

- Beatitude

**Reflection Questions:**

1. Which of the beatitudes are easiest for me to live out?
2. Which of the beatitudes do I find most challenging?
3. How do the beatitudes help me to live like Christ?
4. I wonder which saints you admire for their ability to live out the beatitudes. What can these saints teach me about how to live?

**Subject Matter: Saints - Identify Saints who lived the Corporal Works of Mercy**

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Many Saints demonstrated their holiness through Corporal Works of Mercy.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.8.ENC.04)

**GROW**

- Identify saints who modeled corporal works of mercy. (DOL.8.GROW.H.04)
- Describe how members of the Body of Christ share responsibility for each other and all of humanity. See Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles. (DOL.8.GROW.M.03)

**WITNESS**

- Design and organize student-directed service projects DOL.8.WIT.04 Participate in service projects. (DOL.8.WIT.02)
- Participate in service to others that is purposefully integrated within the social justice teachings of the Church. (DOL.8.WIT.05)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt. 5:3-12
- CCC 2447
- YC 450-451

**Resources**

Maps/Geography:

Art:

Online: [USCCB Corporal Works of Mercy](#)

Music:

Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Mercy, Corporal, Work of Mercy

**Reflection Questions:**

1. Why is mercy so important to God?
2. What are some examples of Corporal Works of Mercy I have performed?
3. I wonder what some new ways of performing the Corporal Works of Mercy could be?
4. How do the saints model the Works of Mercy?

**Subject Matter: Structure of the Church**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Jesus founded (started) a Church with a specific structure that we still use today.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.8.ENC.01)

**GROW**

- Identify and discuss the New Testament passages where Jesus established the Church. (DOL.8.GROW.SCR.03)
- Identify Peter as the appointed leader of the New Church and as the first pope. (DOL.8.GROW.SCR.06)
- Explain the roles of the pope, bishops, priests, deacons, the consecrated, and laity. (DOL.8.GROW.CRE.06)

**WITNESS**

- Match individual talents and interests with the needs of the community and reflect on service experiences in the light of the Gospel values that animate the school's mission. (DOL.8.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture:
  - Mt 16: 15-20, Eph 2:19-22, 1Pt 2:5-7, Mt 18:18
- CCC 934 - 945

**Resources**

Maps/Geography:

Art:

Online: EWTN: [“The Hierarchical Structure of the Church”](#), Catholic Identity [“Church Structures”](#)

Music:

Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Authority, succession, hierarchy, magisterium

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder why Jesus started a Church with the structure He did.
2. Where do I fit into the structure of the Church?
3. What could go wrong in churches without a magisterium?

**Common Errors:**

*“Church Leaders are just men, so we don't need to follow their authority.”* The rejection of authority leads to confusion and division.

**Subject Matter: Advent and the Liturgical Calendar**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Advent is the first season of the Liturgical year, a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.8.ENC.06)

**GROW**

- Describe the liturgical year and cycle of readings and be able to find the readings in the Lectionary. (DOL.8.GROW.SL.03)
- Express how each Holy Day of Obligation fits in the overall cycle of the liturgical year. (DOL.8.GROW.SL.04)

**WITNESS**

- Participate in service projects. (DOL.8.WIT.04)

**Sources**

- CCC 524, 1163 - 1173
- YC 186

**Resources**

Maps/Geography:

Art:

Online: [The Catholic All Year Compendium](#) by Kendra Tierney

Music:

Prayers: Find readings in the Lectionary

**Vocabulary**

- Liturgy, liturgical year, liturgical season, holy day of obligation, Advent

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder why the Church year is organized into different Liturgical Seasons.
2. What are some new activities I can do to celebrate the Liturgical seasons more fully?
3. Can you use a Lectionary to find the mass reading of the day?
4. Why is this time of preparation a gift to me and to the Church?

**Subject Matter: Christmas****Suggested Liturgical Season: Advent****Explanation/Proclamation**

Christmas is a Liturgical season that helps us to enter more fully into the coming of the Messiah, who came to redeem mankind.

**Benchmarks****ENCOUNTER**

- Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (DOL.8.ENC.01)

**GROW**

- Explain that even after the Fall, creation remains a good gift and is not totally corrupted; it is able to be redeemed. (DOL.8.GROW.CRE.02)

**WITNESS**

- Design and organize student-directed service projects. (DOL.8.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Mt. 1:1 - 2:23, Lk. 1:1 - 2:56
- CCC 484-489
- YC 73-79

**Resources**

Maps/Geography:

Art:

Online: [Who was St. Nicholas?](#)

Music: "[Manger Throne](#)" Phil Wickham

Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Redeem/redemption, messiah, Emmanuel,

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder, what was the main reason God became man?
2. How does celebrating Christmas every year help me to enter into God's plan of salvation?
3. How can I bring the message of Christmas to those around me?

**Subject Matter: Vocations: General Lesson**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

God calls each person to a certain path in life, a path that will lead to happiness.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.8.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Explain how God invites each person to a vocation of married life, consecrated life, or the priesthood. (DOL.8.GROW.SL.05)

**WITNESS**

- Match individual talents and interests with the needs of the community and reflect on service experiences in the light of the Gospel values that animate the school's mission. (DOL.8.WIT.03)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Gen. 12:1-4, Jer. 1:4-9, Mt. 10:1-5

**Resources**

- Maps/Geography:
- Art:
- Online: **Go Priest** [Discernment Test](#), Fr. Mike ["Discernment 101"](#), **USCCB** ["Discernment Tools"](#)
- Music:
- Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Discern/discernment, vocation, calling.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder what God is calling me to do with my life.
2. I wonder how many people choose what they will do in their lives without listening for God to tell them.
3. I wonder if following God's plan will bring me true happiness, fulfillment and /or joy.

**Common Errors:**

- "Decision making is the same as Discernment." Discerning is not the same as deciding, it involves prayer, self-reflection, and the input of others we trust,

**Subject Matter: Vocation: Marriage and Family (2 Week Lesson)**  
**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

The Sacrament of Matrimony is modeled after the love of the Holy Trinity.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Meditate upon the prayers of the Rite of Matrimony. (DOL.8.ENC.07)

**GROW**

- Contemplate the prayers and understand the structure of the Rite of Matrimony. (DOL.8.GROW.SL.01)
- Interpret the significance of Genesis 2:18 "It is not good for man to be alone; I will make a helper fit for him." (DOL.8.GROW.CRE.08)
- Describe how Matrimony is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace. (DOL.8.GROW.SAC.01)
- Find and discuss examples of Old Testament events that prefigure the Sacrament of Matrimony. (DOL.8.GROW.SAC.02)
- Explain and defend that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death. (DOL.8.GROW.DIG.02)
- Explain that the universal call to holiness is lived out in the context of our vocation and state of life. (DOL.8.GROW.M.06)
- Explain how the family, the basic cell of society, has rights and duties. (DOL.8.GROW.M.09)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.8.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Gen. 1:27-28, Gen, 2:18-24, Mt. 19:6, Eph. 5:25
- CCC 369-372, 1534, 1601-1605, 1623

**Resources**

- Art:
- Online: [Three Get Married](#) by Rev. Fulton Sheen, [Sophia Sketchpad: Marriage](#)
- Music:
- Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Matrimony, fidelity, procreation, unity, covenant

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder if God is calling me to be married.
2. I wonder what would happen to the world if people stopped getting married.
3. I wonder how matrimony is a model for holiness/trinity?

**Common Errors:**

"Anyone can get married to anyone, so Marriage is not between a man and a woman. "God created us man and woman to complement each other. We give ourselves to each other as a gift in marriage so that we can be fruitful by bearing children.

Subject Matter: The Precepts of the Church

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

### **Explanation/Proclamation**

The precepts of the Church are the minimum requirements in prayer and the moral life expected of each person who is Baptized Catholic.

### **Benchmarks**

#### **ENCOUNTER**

- Approach Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy. (DOL.8.ENC.06)

#### **GROW**

- Explore the precepts of the Church. (DOL.8.GROW.M.02)
- Describe how members of the Body of Christ share responsibility for each other and all of humanity. (DOL.8.GROW.M.03)
- Explain that the universal call to holiness is lived out in the context of our vocation and state of life. (DOL.8.GROW.M.06)
- Describe the liturgical year and cycle of readings and be able to find the readings in the Lectionary. (DOL.8.GROW.SL.03)

#### **WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.8.WIT.01)

#### **Sources**

- CCC 2041-2043
- YC 345-346

#### **Resources**

Art:

Online: [“What are the Precepts of the Church”](#) St. Paul Center. See Sophia Institute for teacher’s lesson on precepts.

Music:

Prayers:

#### **Vocabulary**

- Precept, Obligation

#### **Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder why we call the precepts of the Church the minimum requirements.
2. I wonder why the Church gives us “minimum requirements” to be Catholic?
3. I wonder if doing just the minimum required of the Baptized would lead to a very deep relationship with Christ.
4. Do the precepts of the Church make it easier or harder to live as a Catholic?

#### **Common Errors:**

“It’s not really a big deal if I miss Mass on Sunday.”

Subject Matter: The Call to Holiness Suggested  
**Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

### Explanation/Proclamation

God calls us to holiness that is lived out in the context of our vocation and state of life. Vocation is viewed as shaping all the aspects of life while responding to God's call.

### Benchmarks

#### ENCOUNTER

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.8.ENC.05)

#### GROW

- Explain that the universal call to holiness is lived out in the context of our vocation and state of life. (DOL.8.GROW.M.06)

#### WITNESS

- Match individual talents and interests with the needs of the community and reflect on service experiences in the light of the Gospel values that animate the school's mission (NSBECS 3.3). (DOL.8.WIT.03).

### Sources

- CCC 897-913
- Vocation is 'finding a purpose for our lives that is part of the purposes of God'- James Fowler

### Resources

Art:

Online: Fr. Mike Schmitz "[Vocation and the Universal call to Holiness](#)"

Music:

Prayers:

### Vocabulary

- Holiness, vocation, state of life

### Reflection Questions:

1. What is the one vocation that we all share? (to become saints)
2. Do we just have one vocation in our lifetime?
3. What are you called to do for your church now? What more can you do in your church as you grow older?
4. I wonder, how what vocation I choose can lead me to deeper holiness?

### Common Errors:

- "Vocation is deciding to be a priest/religious, or a married man or woman." Vocation is not a one-time decision; it is how we respond to God over and over again.

Subject Matter: Suffering Servant

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Lent**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

The suffering servant in Isaiah is a prefiguration of Jesus. The New Testament is concealed in the Old, and the Old Testament is revealed in the New.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Listen to God in meditation (teacher guided and self-guided) on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources. (DOL.8.ENC.02)

**GROW**

- Explore the Suffering Servant in Isaiah, Lamb of God. (DOL.8.GROW.SCR.01)
- Discuss the principles of interpreting Scripture according to the teaching of the Catholic Church. (DOL.8.GROW.SCR.08)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.8.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Isaiah- four servant songs: 42:1-7, 49:1-6, 50:4-9, 52:13-53;12 Luke 22
- CCC- 571-576

**Resources**

Art:

Online:

Music:

Prayers: Stations of the Cross

**Vocabulary**

- Prefigured, type, foreshadow.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. When you read the passages in Isaiah, what do you hear that reminds you of Jesus?
2. What does it mean when we say Isaiah's suffering servant prefigures Jesus' suffering?
3. When we say that the New Testament is concealed in the Old, and the Old Testament is revealed in the New, what do we mean?
4. How does understanding Jesus as a suffering servant help me with my own sufferings in life?

**Common Errors:**

- "The Jewish faith believes that Jesus is the suffering servant in the Book of Isaiah." The Jewish faith does not believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of the suffering servant in the Old Testament.

Subject Matter: The 4 Last Things; Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

At the end of our earthly lives, we will all experience death, judgment, and either Heaven or Hell.

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.8.ENC.05)

**GROW**

- Compare the realities of heaven, hell, and purgatory. (DOL.8.GROW.CRE.03)
- Develop an understanding that the body and soul will be reunited at the Parousia. (DOL.8.GROW.CRE.09)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.8.WIT.01)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - 1 Thes.5:1-5, Heb. 9:27, Acts 17:31, Jn. 5:24
- CCC 1020-1050
- YC 157-163

**Resources**

- Art:
- Online: EWTN ["The Last Things"](#). Ascension Presents ["The Four Last Things"](#)
- Music:
- Prayers:

**Vocabulary**

- Parousia, Eternity, Purgatory

**Reflection Questions:**

1. I wonder what gifts God has given to us to prepare for eternal life.
2. What can I do for friends or family who don't know Jesus, so that they can also go to heaven?
3. I wonder how purgatory is a gift to us.
4. I wonder what our eternal life with God will be like.

**Common Errors:**

- "There is no hell.", Hell is eternal separation from God, which means the total absence of love,
- "When we die, we become angels." Angels are creatures that are pure spirit, we are humans created in the image of God. When we die, our souls go to either heaven, purgatory, or hell and remain as souls until the final judgment when we are reunited with our transfigured bodies.
- "God condemns people to Hell." God gives us free choice and we choose whether we go to hell, purgatory, or heaven by choosing to either live for God, or purposely turning away from God.

Subject Matter: Catholicism Compared With Other Religions (2 Week Lesson)

### Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time

#### Explanation/Proclamation

The Catholic Faith contains the fullness of revealed truth, but we can learn from other religions as well.

#### Benchmarks

##### ENCOUNTER

- Contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer. (DOL.8.ENC.05)

##### GROW

- Identify and discuss the New Testament passages where Jesus established the Church. (DOL.8.GROW.SCR.03)
- Identify how evangelization in Acts of the Apostles caused the Church to grow and discuss how evangelization could benefit today's world. (DOL.8.GROW.SCR.07)
- Discuss the principles of interpreting Scripture according to the teaching of the Catholic Church. (DOL.8.GROW.SCR.08)
- Identify the growth of Islam and how it impacted Christians at the time of the Crusades. (DOL.8.GROW.H.06)
- Understand that the Church recognizes other Christians as our brothers and sisters in the Lord. (DOL.8.GROW.CRE.01)
- Compare and contrast the Catholic beliefs of the Eucharist with the beliefs of non-Catholic Christians. (DOL.8.GROW.CRE.04)

##### WITNESS

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift. (DOL.8.WIT.01)

#### Sources

- Scripture
  - Mt. 16:18-19, Acts 2:1-12
- CCC 811 - 822, 109-119

#### Resources

Online: Catholics Come Home "[Resources](#)", CERC "[The One True Church](#)" EWTN "[The Catholic Church](#)", [The Red Balloon](#), Catholic Culture "[How Old is Your Church?](#)"

#### Vocabulary

- Unity, Ecumenism

#### Reflection Questions:

1. I wonder why there are so many different religions.
2. I wonder how the Catholic Faith is a gift to the world.
3. I wonder how the Eucharist is a gift to me.
4. What difference does Jesus make in my life?

#### Common Errors:

- "*All faiths and religions are equally true.*" Only the Catholic Church possesses the fullness of truth. Others may possess elements of the truth, but not its fullness.
- "*Jesus did not institute the Catholic Church.*" Jesus said to Simon, "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church." (Mt 16:18) The Church that he built on the rock of Peter is the Catholic Church.

Subject Matter: Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (2 Week Lesson)

**Suggested Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time**

**Explanation/Proclamation**

Matthew 25: 40: "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me,"

**Benchmarks**

**ENCOUNTER**

- Call upon the Saints for their intercession. (DOL.8.ENC.04)

**GROW**

- Explore the precepts of the Church. (DOL.8.GROW.M.02)
- Explore how Jesus taught us to live and identify the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. (DOL.8.GROW.M.05)
- Understand the role of conscience in moral decision-making, what it means to have an informed conscience, and the importance of developing a moral framework from a Christian perspective. (DOL.8.GROW.M.07)
- Relate the spiritual and corporal works of mercy to works of social justice. (DOL.8.GROW.M.08)
- Explain that man is called to be a steward of the gift of Creation that he receives as gift. (DOL.8.GROW.M.10)

**WITNESS**

- Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a
- good gift. (DOL.8.WIT.01)
- Design and organize student-directed service projects. (DOL.8.WIT.02)

**Sources**

- Scripture
  - Matthew 25: 31-46, Parable of the Good Samaritan, Great Commandment, Bible passages of Jesus healing, praying, and helping those in need as well as admonishing the sinners, and instructing the doubtful.

**Resources**

- Online: [Young Catholic Works of Mercy service ideas and explanations](#)

**Vocabulary**

- Spiritual Works of Mercy, Corporal Works of Mercy

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What are the Corporal Works of Mercy?
2. What are the Spiritual Works of Mercy?
3. What can I do as an 8th grader to help others? Can we do a service project focusing on one of these works of mercy as a group?
4. I wonder how Jesus wants us to show Him Love.