

# Religion

## First Grade

### Program Goal:

The learner will study the Catholic faith and be able to apply these beliefs in their actions through various service, prayer, and decision making opportunities.

### Grade Level Goal:

The first grade learners will identify themselves as members of the Catholic family through Baptism. They will describe and practice how the church family prays, worships, and serves others.

### Content Criteria:

#### I. Beliefs

- The learner will describe how we become members of the Catholic Church through Baptism.
- The learner will identify his/herself as a Catholic Christian who belong to a parish, diocese, and the universal church.
- The learner will identify the Bible as a book of God's Word.
- The learner will give examples of how the Bible guides and teaches us in our everyday lives.
- The learner will identify the two main parts of the Bible (Old and New Testaments).
- The learner will define the Gospels as part of the New Testament that tell the life and teaching of Jesus.
- The learner will explain that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead to give us life.

- The learner will explain in general terms that the Holy Trinity is composed of *God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit*.
- The learner will name the members of the Holy Family.
- The learner will identify *Mary as the Mother of God*.
- The learner will identify *Mary and the Saints as followers of Christ and models for us today*.
- The learner will state that there are ten commandments.
- The learner will recall that *Jesus commanded us to love God first and love each other*.
- The learner will state that there are seven sacraments and a sacrament is a special sign given by Jesus to give grace.
- The learner will explain that *God created the angels to be His messengers and helpers*.
- The learner will relate that *God loves us and wants us to respond to that love*.

## **II. Actions**

- The learner will state that we are created in *God's image and explain that we are all special and unique children of God*.
- The learner will describe the diversity that exists within our classrooms, families, parish communities and world.
- The learner will demonstrate care and concern for *God's creation*.
- The learner will describe how everyone in the church is called to serve others.
- The learner will demonstrate an understanding that everyone in the church is called to share their faith with others.
- The learner will practice imitating Jesus in their daily lives.

## **III. Worship**

- The learner will describe how Catholics come together to celebrate the Eucharist (Mass).
- The learner will describe how we participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

- The learner will define the Eucharist as a meal Jesus shares with us.
- The learner will define Baptism as a first sacrament of membership into God's family.
- The learner will define Reconciliation as a sacrament of love, forgiveness, and welcoming back.
- The learner will describe different seasons and celebrations in the Church year.
- The learner will identify the parish church as a holy place that should be treated with reverence.

#### **IV. Prayer**

- The learner will define prayer as listening and talking to God.
- The learner will explain that we pray for different reasons and in different ways.
- The learner will compare and contrast formal and informal prayer.
- The learner will affirm the diversity of the Catholic Church by participation in various cultural and ethnic celebrations and traditions.
- The learner will use sacramentals, symbols, and rituals in meaningful prayer experiences and liturgies.

#### **Instructional Criteria:**

- The learner will participate in school Mass.
- The learner will participate in class and school-wide service projects.
- The learner will participate in a tour of the parish church and/or religious field trips.
- The learner will participate in daily classroom discussions about his/her faith.
- The learner will be given opportunities to experience a wide variety of prayer activities.
  - Quiet reflection
  - Prayer journals
  - Scripture reading

- Personal and group prayer
- Praise and worship
- Rosary
- Stations of the Cross
- Formal and informal prayer (see appendix)
- The learner will become familiar with appropriate vocabulary (see appendix).

## Scope:

### I. Beliefs

- A. We become members of the Catholic Church through Baptism
  - 1. Through Baptism, we become members of the church
  - 2. Baptism removes original sin
- B. We are Catholic Christians who belong to a parish, diocese, and the universal church.
  - 1. A parish is a community of believers who work, pray and serve others together. The pastor is the leader of the parish (know who is the Pastor).
  - 2. A group of parishes is a diocese. The Bishop is the leader of a diocese (know who the Bishop is)
  - 3. All dioceses are part of the universal church. The Pope is the leader of the Church (know who the Pope is)
- C. The Bible is a book of God's word.
  - 1. God spoke to Moses (Exodus 3:1-15)
  - 2. God spoke to Sarah and Abraham (Genesis 18:1-15)
- D. The Bible guides and teaches us in our everyday lives.
  - 1. The parables of Jesus teach us how to live
    - a.) Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)
    - b.) Forgiving Father (Luke 15:11-32)
  - 2. Stories from the Old Testament teach us about God's faithfulness
    - a.) Noah (Genesis 9:1-17)
    - b.) David (2 Samuel 7:8-16)
    - c.) Abraham (Genesis 15:1-6)
    - d.) Moses (Exodus 3:1-15)

- E. The Bible has an Old and New testament
  - 1. The Old Testament contains stories of God and His people before the birth of Jesus
  - 2. The New Testament contains stories of Jesus' life and the beginnings of the church.
  - 3. The Bible tells the story of God and His people from the beginning of creation to our salvation in Jesus. It is one story but in two parts.
- F. The Gospels are a part of the New Testament and tell of the life and teachings of Jesus
  - 1. The word gospel means good news
  - 2. The incarnation - birth story of Jesus in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-20), his childhood in Nazareth (Luke 2: 39-52)
  - 3. Jesus' teachings
    - a.) Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)
    - b.) Love of God as the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37-40; Luke 10:25-28; Mark 12:28-31)
    - c.) Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)
  - 4. Jesus' miracles - healing people
    - a.) Jarius' daughter (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43)
    - b.) Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 11:46-52)
- G. Jesus died for our sins and rose to give us life.
  - 1. Jesus' death was for the forgiveness of our sins
  - 2. Jesus rose on Easter Sunday. Easter is a celebration of new life in Christ.
  - 3. We believe in the resurrection of the body.
  - 4. We have a soul that will live on after we die.
- H. We believe in the Holy Trinity
  - 1. God the Father
    - a.) God is our creator
    - b.) God is all loving and all forgiving
  - 2. God the Son
    - a.) Jesus is God's son
    - b.) Jesus is our Savior and Brother
    - c.) Jesus died for our sins

3. God the Holy Spirit
  - a.) The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God
  - b.) The Holy Spirit was given to the apostles at Pentecost.
  - c.) We received the Holy Spirit at our Baptism
  - d.) The Holy Spirit helps us make good choices
  - e.) Introduce the Fruits of the Spirit
    - 1.) Charity
    - 2.) Joy
    - 3.) Peace
    - 4.) Patience
    - 5.) Kindness
    - 6.) Goodness
    - 7.) Generosity
    - 8.) Gentleness
    - 9.) Faithfulness
    - 10.) Modesty
    - 11.) Self-control
    - 12.) Chastity
- I. Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the members of the Holy Family
  1. God gave us a family to love and care for us
  2. Our parents and other safe adults protect us
  3. God wants us to obey our parents
- J. Mary is the Mother of God
  1. Mary said "yes" to God's call - Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)
  2. Jesus gave us Mary to be our mother, too
    - a.) At the foot of the cross- (John 19:25-27)
    - b.) Mary has been present with the church throughout history
      - 1.) Fatima
      - 2.) Guadalupe
      - 3.) Lourdes
    - c.) We use the Hail Mary to ask for Mary's help

- K. Mary and the Saints are followers of Jesus and examples for us
  - 1. Mary is an example of obedience to God.
  - 2. The saints made good choices and led holy lives.
  - 3. Know the stories of some saints
    - a.) Patron saint is a specific saint associated with a person or group
      - 1.) Your patron saint is the one you may be named for.
      - 2.) Some parishes have patron saints
      - 3.) Many groups have patron saints - St. Luke (doctors), St. Michael (Firefighters, police)
    - b.) Saints associated with special celebrations
      - 1.) St. Nicholas
      - 2.) St. Patrick
  - 4. We are all called to be saints.
  - 5. There is a communion of saints
    - a.) We are a part of the communion of saints through Baptism.
    - b.) The Communion of Saints works on our behalf.
- L. There are 10 commandments
  - 1. God gave us Ten Commandments through Moses. (Exodus 20:1-17)
    - a.) The commandments are rules we should follow
    - b.) They were given to us by God
  - 2. The first three commandments relate to our relationship with God.
  - 3. The last seven commandments relate to our relationship with others.
  - 4. God set aside a holy day (Sabbath) and commands us to honor it.
- M. Jesus gave us two great commandments (Matthew 22:37-40)
  - 1. We should love God first above all else.
  - 2. We should love our neighbors as ourselves.

- N. The church has 7 sacraments that are special signs given by Jesus to give grace.
1. Grace is God's life within us to help us.
  2. We receive grace through the sacraments.
  3. Seven sacraments
    - c.) Baptism
    - d.) Reconciliation
    - e.) Eucharist
    - f.) Confirmation
    - g.) Marriage
    - h.) Holy Orders
    - i.) Anointing of the Sick
  4. We receive grace through the sacraments.
- O. God created the angels to be His messengers and helpers
1. God sent an angel to Mary to ask her to be the Mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38).
  2. We have a guardian angel to protect us.
  3. The students should know the difference between angels and saints.
- P. God loves us and wants us to respond to that love
1. We should treat others with respect and kindness
  2. We should praise God and pray for others
  3. God forgives us no matter what we do
  4. We should forgive and love others

## II. Actions

- A. We are created in God's image and we are all special and unique children of God.
1. Notice human features (eyes, nose, mouth, arms, legs, etc.)
  2. No one person is quite like you - not even twins
  3. Each person has their own talents God gave them
  4. We need to respect the differences of others
  5. All human life is valuable

- B. Diversity exists within our classroom, family, parish communities, and world.
  - 1. Notice differences among students
  - 2. Notice differences among people in parish
    - a.) Old/Young
    - b.) Singles/families
    - c.) Different families
  - 3. Differences among people of the world (use pictures from National Geographic or ads from magazines)
- C. We should show care and concern for God's creations
  - 1. How we take care of ourselves
    - a.) Health and nutrition
    - b.) Safety issues
  - 2. How we take care of family members
    - a.) Family chores
    - b.) Obeying parents
    - c.) Visiting relatives
  - 3. Neighbors
    - a.) Helping
    - b.) Visiting
  - 4. Environment
    - a.) Recycling
    - b.) Reusing
    - c.) Reducing
  - 5. Respect other people's boundaries
- D. Everyone in the Church is called to serve others and put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
  - 1. Serve poor, shut-ins, sick, orphans, all those in need
  - 2. Help and obey parents, teachers, those in charge of children's well being
  - 3. Children can be involved in works of service
    - a.) Service at home - help with chores, join with family projects.
    - b.) Service at school - classroom jobs, keeping playground/lunchroom neat
    - c.) Service in the community - food, clothing drive, cards to shut-ins or service members
    - d.) Fund raisers

- E. Everyone in the Church is called to share faith with others
  - 1. Say prayers before meals
    - a.) At home
    - b.) Out at restaurants
    - c.) At a friends home
  - 2. Responding to the prayers during Mass
    - a.) Saying Amen
    - b.) Saying "Thanks be to God"
    - c.) Singing the Psalm
    - d.) Responding to the petitions
  - 3. Listen to Father during Mass
    - a.) Reading
    - b.) Homily
    - c.) Prayers
  - 4. Join in community prayer
  - 5. Priests, Sisters, and members of religious orders are called to serve in special ways
- F. Practice imitating Jesus in daily living
  - 1. Use kind words and actions
  - 2. Be respectful of other's properties
  - 3. Treat others as you would want to be treated

### **III. Worship**

- A. The Catholic Church (people) comes together to celebrate
  - 1. Mass
    - a.) Participate in the parts of the Mass that require a response: Singing, speaking, silence.
    - b.) Use appropriate gestures - genuflect - "Sign of the Cross" - bow
    - c.) Correct body positions - stand, sit, kneel, prayer hands
  - 2. Sacraments - 7 of them -are a celebration of the Church that give us grace

3. Prayer
  - a.) Blessings
  - b.) Morning and Evening Prayer
  - c.) Hail Mary, Our Father, Creed
  - d.) Stations of the Cross
- B. Describe participation in Mass
  1. Congregation/Assembly Members
    - a.) Sing
    - b.) Respond
    - c.) Pray
    - d.) Listen
  2. Special participants (ministries)
    - a.) Readers/Lectors
      - 1.) Share God's word
      - 2.) Lead congregation in prayers of petition
    - b.) Extraordinary Ministers
    - c.) Gift bearers
    - d.) Celebrant (priest)
- C. The Eucharist is a meal that Jesus shares with us
  1. The Eucharist is celebrated as God's gift to us
  2. The bread becomes the Body of Jesus
  3. The wine becomes the Blood of Jesus
  4. The word Eucharist means thanksgiving and is a celebration of Jesus giving his life
  5. The first Eucharist was celebrated at the Last Supper
- D. Baptism is a sacrament of belonging to God's family
  1. Symbols of the sacrament
    - a.) Candle
    - b.) White garment
    - c.) Water
    - d.) Chrism
  2. Know the words that the priest uses - I baptize you in the name of the Father...
  3. Baptism is for the remission of sin and for membership to God's family

- E. Reconciliation is a sacrament of love and forgiveness
  - 1. God/Jesus loves and forgives us
  - 2. Sin is turning your back on God's will and call
  - 3. The church offers us the sacrament of reconciliation to share God's love and forgiveness with us and bring us grace
- F. The church has different seasons and celebrations
  - 1. Colors and special symbols are used at Mass to represent seasons in the Church
    - a.) Ordinary time - green
    - b.) Advent
      - 1.) Purple
      - 2.) Advent wreath
      - 3.) Beginning of each new church year
    - c.) Christmas
      - 1.) White
      - 2.) Nativity
    - d.) Lent
      - 1.) Purple
      - 2.) Ashes
    - e.) Easter
      - 1.) White
      - 2.) Paschal candle
  - 3. Different colors and symbols are associated with special days
    - a.) Martyrs - red
    - b.) Feasts of Mary
      - 1.) White
      - 2.) Special songs
    - c.) Pentecost
      - 1.) Red
      - 2.) Holy Spirit represented with fire or dove
    - d.) Passion Sunday - palms

- G. Identify the parish church as a holy place that should be treated with reverence
1. A holy object or place is one that is connected with God
  2. Because the Church is a holy place we should enter and leave with reverence
    - a.) Quietly and orderly
    - b.) Blessing self with holy water
  3. Recognize holy places and objects in the church
    - a.) Altar
    - b.) Ambo
    - c.) Baptismal font
    - d.) Tabernacle
    - e.) Sanctuary light
    - f.) Pascal candle
    - g.) Sanctuary
    - h.) Crucifix
    - i.) Shrines or statues
    - j.) Stations of the Cross
    - k.) Presider's Chair
    - l.) Holy water font
  4. Recognize that Jesus is present in the tabernacle
    - a.) We can pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament
    - b.) Genuflect in the presence of the tabernacle
    - c.) Wait in silence to hear/listen to God

#### IV. Prayer

- A. Define prayer as listening and talking to God
1. We listen to:
    - a.) Scripture
    - b.) Father's homilies at Mass
    - c.) Our parents and teachers
    - d.) Contemplation/Meditation/Reflection/Silence
  2. Ways we talk:
    - a.) Aloud
    - b.) In our hearts
    - c.) Writing

- B. We pray for different reasons and in different ways
  - 1. Reasons we pray
    - a.) Spontaneous conversation to develop our relationship with God
    - b.) For a specific purpose
      - 1.) Praise
      - 2.) Thanksgiving
      - 3.) Contrition
      - 4.) Petition
  - 2. Different ways we pray
    - a.) Spoken word
    - b.) Songs
    - c.) Dances
    - d.) Gestures
  - 3. Structure of prayer
    - a.) Sign of the Cross (begin/end)
    - b.) Amen
  - 4. Different body positions
    - a.) May fold our hands
    - b.) May bow
    - c.) May kneel
    - d.) Hold hands
    - e.) Raise hands
- C. Differences between formal and informal types of prayers
  - 1. Formal prayer is words we have memorized
    - a.) Can be said by yourself or with a group
    - b.) Expect children to know formal prayers
      - 1.) Sign of the Cross
      - 2.) Glory Be
      - 3.) Our Father
      - 4.) Hail Mary
      - 5.) Grace before Meals
      - 6.) Angel of God
      - 7.) Acclamation and gesture before the Gospel
    - c.) Introduce children to:
      - 1.) Rosary
      - 2.) Morning/evening prayer

2. Informal prayer
  - a.) Own words
  - b.) By ourselves
  - c.) In front of the group
- D. Affirm the diversity of the Catholic Church by participating in various cultural and ethnic religious celebrations and traditions
  1. Include cultural traditions/foreign languages in classroom prayer
  2. Include tradition/foreign language songs in liturgical celebrations
  3. Make connections to cultural differences when studying saints
- E. Using sacramentals, symbols, and rituals in meaningful prayer experiences and liturgies
  1. Sacramentals are objects used to bring us closer to God
    - a.) Ashes
    - b.) Palms
    - c.) Rosaries
    - d.) Crucifix
    - e.) Candles
    - f.) Holy water
  2. Symbols are objects used to remind us of God
    - a.) Holy Oils
    - b.) Water
    - c.) Candle
  3. Rituals are traditional actions which are a part of prayer
    - a.) Blessing ourselves with holy water
    - b.) Genuflect in the presence of the tabernacle
    - c.) Stations of the Cross in Lenten celebrations
    - d.) Father blessing the congregation with holy water in the Easter season - response is the Sign of the Cross.
    - e.) Praying the same prayers during Mass

**Textbook recommendation:**

First Choice:

*We Believe* Sadlier ISBN 0-8215-5401-8

Strengths: Alignment with curriculum  
Options for learning style differences

Weaknesses: Testing materials  
Reading level of text

Second Choice:

*Faith First* RCL ISBN 0-7829-1116-1

Strengths: Alignment with curriculum  
Visually appealing and well organized

Testing materials  
Availability of rubrics  
Weaknesses: Lack of suggestions for learning styles  
Reading level

## APPENDIX

**VOCABULARY: words the teacher should be familiar with**

**Blessed Trinity/Holy Trinity**

**Lord's Prayer/Our Father**

**Names for Jesus: Christ, Good Shepherd, Savior, Second Person of the Blessed Trinity**

**Names for Mary: Blessed Mother, Our Lady, Queen of Heaven, Mother of God**

**Genuflect**

**Consecrate**

**Benediction**

**Vigil**

**Cross**

**Crucifix**

**Baptismal font**

**Sanctuary**

**Altar**

**Ambo**

**Tabernacle**

**Sanctuary lamp**

**Sacrament**

**Rosary**

**Statue**

**Saint**

**Angel**

**Grace**

**Church is the people of God**

**church the building**

### PRAYERS

**Sign of the Cross**

**Hail Mary**

**Our Father**

**Glory Be**

**Grace before meals**

**Rosary**

**Morning Offering:**

**God, our Father, I offer you today all that I think and do and say. I offer it with what was done on earth by Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen**

**Prayer to My Guardian Angel:**

**Angel of God my guardian dear to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen**

**Prayer and gesture before the gospel:**

**During Mass, before the gospel reading, we make a cross on our forehead, lips, and heart as we prayer silently:**

**Jesus be on my mind.**

**Jesus be on my lips.**

**Jesus be in my heart.**