

# Religion

## Seventh 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 learner will have a deeper understanding of the living truths of their faith through the Christian Scriptures.

### Content Criteria:

#### I. Beliefs

- The learner will identify the bible as the living word of God.
- The learner will acknowledge that Christian Scripture is divided into four main parts.
- The learner will examine Sacred Scripture to better understand the covenant between God and his people
- The learner will describe the importance of Mary's discipleship.
- The learner will explain how Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to provide inspiration for his disciples and followers.
- The learner will recognize the two natures of Jesus (divine and human) through the Gospels.
- The learner will understand and appreciate the Paschal Mystery as the core of our faith.
- The learner will identify and analyze the Nicene Creed as a statement of beliefs.
- The learner will focus on how Jesus' mission and ministry are continuing today through the Church.
- The learner will distinguish the personal nature of God through the Scriptures.

## **II. Actions**

- The learner will identify a variety of Christian vocations and how they reflect our Baptismal call to discipleship.
- The learner will recall the life of Jesus when making choices.
- The learner will describe that, as seventh graders, we are called to live and proclaim the *Good News of Jesus*.
- The learner will identify and describe current events occurring locally and globally that impact the Kingdom of God on Earth.
- The learner will model responsible relationships with others.

## **III. Worship**

- The learner will show reverence and respect for Scriptures as the inspired Word of God.
- The learner will affirm the diversity of the Catholic Church by describing various cultural celebrations and traditions in worship.
- The learner will explain the meaning behind each part of the liturgy.
- The learner will incorporate sacramentals, symbols, and rituals into meaningful prayer experiences and liturgies.

## **IV. Prayer**

- The learner will describe how informal and formal prayers express personal and communal spirituality.
- The learner will analyze how personal prayer helps to develop a relationship with God.
- The learner will analyze how the *Gospel* affirms and challenges ones thoughts.

## Instructional Criteria:

- The learner will plan and participate in liturgies.
- The learner will participate in various service projects.
- The learner will incorporate various religious vocabulary words as needed. (See appendix)
- The learner will participate in daily classroom discussions about his/her faith.
- The learner will participate in school, parish, and community activities.
- The learner will be given various opportunities to become familiar with Biblical stories.

## Scope:

### I. Beliefs

- A. Four main parts of Christian Scriptures
  1. Gospels
    - a.) Matthew
    - b.) Mark
    - c.) Luke
    - d.) John
  2. Acts of the Apostles
  3. Epistles/Letters
  4. Revelation
  5. Jesus is the Word of God as told through the Gospels
    - a.) John 1:1-3
- B. Covenant
  1. "You will be my people and I will be your God"  
(Exodus 6:7)
  2. The Christian faith is a personal response to Jesus and requires a relationship with Him.

- C. Mary's discipleship
  - 1. Mary as Mother
    - a.) "Behold you son" (John 19:26-27)
    - b.) The Canticle of Mary (Luke 1:48)
  - 2. Acts of the Apostles
    - a.) Aided the beginnings of the Church by her prayers (Catechism 965)
- D. Holy Spirit
  - 1. Scriptures are the inspired word of God (Catechism 105)
  - 2. Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)
  - 3. Acts of the Apostles
  - 4. Saints as inspired people
  - 5. Other inspired people
    - a.) Mother Teresa
    - b.) John Paul II
- E. Jesus (divine/human)
  - 1. Human Nature
    - a.) Christ and the poor, sick and homeless (Catechism 1934)
    - b.) Christ showing compassion and mercy. (John 8:1-11)
    - c.) Birth (Luke 2:1-7)
    - d.) Death (Luke 23:44-46)
  - 2. Divine Nature
    - a.) Christ the healer (Luke 8:26-30)
    - b.) Christ the Redeemer (Luke 24:1-9; Luke 24:36-43; Luke 24:50-51)
  - 3. We come to know Jesus through various titles in the Gospels.
    - a.) Son of God
    - b.) Rabbi (Teacher)
    - c.) Servant
    - d.) Master
    - e.) Son of Mary

- F. Paschal Mystery
  - 1. Passion (Catechism 1067)
  - 2. Death (Matthew 27:33-61)
  - 3. Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-15)
- G. Nicene Creed
  - 1. Statement of beliefs
    - a.) Our beliefs are sound - constant through the ages
    - b.) Our beliefs are rooted in Tradition
  - 2. Membership in the Communion of Saints
- H. Jesus' mission/ministry continues today
  - 1. Jesus teaches about God, prayer, justice and peace, service and moral life.
  - 2. Word (John 1:1-5, 1:14)
  - 3. Worship (John 4:19-26)
  - 4. Community building (Matthew 5:1-12a)
  - 5. Service (John 13:1-20)
- I. Personal nature of God
  - 1. God knows us and calls us by name. (Isaiah 43:1)
  - 2. God is revealed to us through Jesus. (Matthew 11:27)

## II. Actions

- A. Vocations
  - 1. Royal Priesthood (1 Peter 2:9a)
  - 2. God's own people (Catechism 1268 - 70)
    - a.) Single
    - b.) Married
    - c.) Ordained
    - d.) Religious
  - 3. Demonstrate discipleship through community building and service
- B. Choices
  - 1. "The Greatest Commandment" (Matthew 22:34-40)
  - 2. Demonstrate honesty, mercy, kindness and forgiveness toward others (Colossians 3:12-17)
  - 3. Exercise responsibility for all of God's creation

- C. Good News of Jesus
  - 1. Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to daily life
  - 2. Identify Christian role models, especially those named in Scripture
    - a.) Saints
    - b.) Disciples
- D. Current events
  - 1. War
  - 2. Poverty
  - 3. AIDS
- E. Responsible relationships
  - 1. Emphasis on honesty, love and respect
    - a.) With God
    - b.) With others
    - c.) With self

### **III. Worship**

- A. Reverence for Scripture
  - 1. Outward manifestations
    - a.) Decoration of Book of Gospels
    - b.) Gathering procession
    - c.) Placement of book of Gospels
    - d.) Sign of the Cross used prior to reading the Gospel
- B. Cultural celebrations (Catechism 814)
  - 1. Passover
    - a.) Seder Meal (Jewish)
    - b.) Last Supper (Jesus' apostles)
  - 2. Feast Days
    - a.) All Souls/All Saints
    - b.) Christmas
    - c.) Easter
- C. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
  - 1. Liturgy of Word
  - 2. Liturgy of Eucharist

#### D. Sacramentals, symbols, rituals

1. Sacramentals
  - a.) Oils
  - b.) Holy Water
2. Symbols
  - a.) Liturgical seasons
  - b.) Paschal candle
3. Rituals
  - a.) Baptism
  - b.) Confirmation
  - c.) Eucharist

### IV. Prayer

- A. Formal/Informal prayer
  1. Formal
    - a.) Review prayers taught in previous grades
    - b.) Stations of the Cross
    - c.) Eucharistic Adoration
  2. Informal
    - a.) Create and/or lead spontaneous prayer for thanksgiving, praise, sorrow, petition
    - b.) Engage students in informal prayer in response to the events of the day
- B. Personal prayer
  1. Psalms
  2. Meditation
  3. Retreats
- C. Gospel
  1. Blessing of the Children (Mark 10:13-16)
  2. Judgment of the nations (Matthew 25:31-46)

## Textbook Recommendation:

### First Choice: (Tie)

***Blest Are We***                      **Pearson**                      **ISBN: 0-382-36506-2**

Strengths: Technology component, references to Catechism, assessments good, reading levels and different learning styles included.

Weaknesses: Consumable student text, no scripture citations

***Christ Our Life***                      **Loyola**                      **ISBN: 978-0-8294-1546-9**  
**0-8294-1546-7**

Strengths: References to Catechism, follows curriculum, good assessments, reading level and different learning styles included.

Weaknesses: Consumable student text, no technology component

## APPENDIX - GRADE 7

### Vocabulary:

Immaculate Conception	Incarnation	Pentecost
Ascension	Resurrection	Passover/Seder Meal
Nativity	Presentation in the Temple	Transfiguration
Evangelization	Paschal Mystery	Sacramentals
Symbols	Rituals	Vocations
Discipleship	Rabbi	Catholic Social Teachings
Saints	Communion of Saints	Nicene Creed
Scripture		