



St. Mel's Catholic School

## **RELIGION STANDARDS: Grade Eight**

### **THEME:**

**Understanding and appreciating the history, character, and future of our Church community.**

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- A. To learn about the history of the Church.
- B. To assist children in understanding their role in the Church community.
- C. To understand that all people are called to further the Kingdom by living the Good News of the Gospel.

**1.0 MESSAGE: The past, present, and future of our Church community are to be valued.**

### **1.1 God**

- 1.1.1 To understand that Jesus devoted His life to freeing people from every form of slavery and to believe that we are called to stand, like Jesus, for and with the poor in the struggle against injustice and oppression and to free them from every form of slavery.
- 1.1.2 To understand that Jesus models respect and reverence for human life.

### **1.2 Scripture**

- 1.2.1 To reinforce that the Bible is a collection of books that tell the story of God and His people.
- 1.2.2 To become proficient at searching the Bible as a book divided into books, chapters, and verses.
- 1.2.3 To reinforce the knowledge of authorship of Christian Scripture.
- 1.2.4 To reinforce that when we read the Bible, we listen to God speaking to us.
- 1.2.5 To deepen the understanding of the Gospel as the Good News.
- 1.2.6 To reinforce that scripture is an element in revelation.

### **1.3 Doctrine**

- 1.3.1 To know that Jesus formed a community of disciples to continue God's saving presence.
- 1.3.2 To learn that the Holy Spirit inspires and guides the reform of the Church.

**2.0 WORSHIP: We experience God's love through signs and symbols.**

### **2.1 Sacraments**

- 2.1.1 To review that the seven sacraments are special signs of Christ's grace and our faith.
- 2.1.2 To learn that the sacraments are actions of the risen Christ working through His Church to love, heal, and call us to change.
- 2.1.3 To know that sacraments celebrate the presence of Christ in our most important life experiences.
- 2.1.4 To reinforce that the Eucharist is the central celebration of our Church.



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2.1.5 To understand how sacraments express and intensify values important to teenagers.

### **2.2 Prayer**

2.2.1 To incorporate prayer as part of our daily living.

2.2.2 To know the following prayers: (1) Sign of the Cross; (2) Nicene Creed; (3) Lord's Prayer; (4) Prayer of St. Francis; (5) Hail Mary; (6) Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love; (7) Doxology (Glory to the Father...); (8) Hail Holy Queen; (9) Grace before and after meals; and (10) An Act of Contrition

2.2.3 To have the opportunity to participate in a variety of prayer forms such as: (1) recitation; (2) spontaneous prayer; (3) petitions; (4) guided meditation; (5) gestures; (6) song, and (7) dance.

### **2.3 Liturgy**

2.3.1 To review the specific parts and order of the Mass - the Liturgy of the Word and the

Liturgy of the Eucharist - and to be able to properly use the responses.

2.3.2 To review liturgies associated with feasts and seasons of the Church year.

2.3.3 To take leadership in planning liturgies and paraliturgies.

### **2.4 Liturgical Year**

2.4.1 To review the colors, customs, and signs of celebrations that are traditional for the Catholic Church.

2.4.2 To review the liturgical calendar.

### **2.5 Feast Days**

2.5.1 To review how the Catholic Church celebrates feast days.

2.5.2 To celebrate the lives of past and modern day saints.

### **2.6 Traditions**

2.6.1 To understand in greater depth the Church as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

2.6.2 To understand rituals and traditions of the one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church.

2.6.3 To understand how ritual and traditions change to meet the needs of people.

2.6.4 To understand there are many ways to express one's faith within the Catholic Church.

### **3.0 MORALITY: We witness our life as Christians in faith and service.**

3.1 To understand how our Christian values help us make social, economic, and political choices.

3.2 To understand that we have a conscience that sends us a signal when it is disturbed.

3.3 To be aware that some sins are collective, the wrongful acts of a group.

3.4 To realize the quality of our eternal life depends upon how we live now.

3.5 To understand that the Beatitudes are the summary of Christian morality.

### **4.0 CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Live the Christian message by service to others.**

#### **4.1 Justice**

4.11 To continue to learn to practice the values of the Gospel toward others.



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- 4.12 To continue to learn to treat others as we want to be treated.
- 4.13 To continue to practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- 4.14 To recognize that Gospel justice can be in conflict with the secular world.

### **4.2 Peace**

- 4.2.1 To learn to build the kingdom of God with our brothers and sisters throughout the world.
- 4.2.2 To continue to work for peace.

### **4.3 Local Needs**

- 4.3.1 To recognize the needs of others, both in our own community and throughout the world.
- 4.3.2 To participate in school and class service projects.

## **5.0 COMMUNITY: Understand the Church community and its relationship to the world.**

### **5.1 Models of Church**

- 5.1.1 To understand how the Holy Spirit has developed the Church from yesterday to today and guides it to tomorrow.
- 5.1.2 To reinforce that the Church is family.
- 5.1.3 To know that we are all disciples of God.
- 5.1.4 To learn how the Church is an institution within national and global communities.
- 5.1.5 To understand that the Church, though having central leadership, is built on individual commitment.
- 5.1.6 To know about the role of the various groups in the Church: laity, Pope, cardinals, bishops, diocese.
- 5.1.7 To understand the history, work, and role of religious orders and the call to religious life today.

### **5.2 Church History**

- 5.2.1 To learn that tradition is ongoing and yet evolving.
- 5.2.2 To understand the role of the Roman Catholic Church in world history.
- 5.2.3 To know that the Holy Spirit guides the Church.
- 5.2.4 To learn about models of Church government.

### **5.3 Mary/Saints**

- 5.3.1 To recognize Mary as patroness of the Church in the United States and the Americas.
- 5.3.2 To continue to learn about the lives of the saints.

## **6.0 FAMILY LIFE: Relationships and commitment valued by Catholic teenagers.**

### **6.1 Human Dignity**

- 6.1.1 To understand about decision-making within a family.
- 6.1.2 To learn about relationships as a growing adolescent.
- 6.1.3 To respect, value, and care for all life on earth.
- 6.1.4 To study current issues that relate to a teenager's life.
- 6.1.5 To understand feelings in communicating with others.

## **7.0 TERMINOLOGY:**



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7.1 To become aware of the following terms in relationship to the Church:

Alms, Catholic, action, canon, law, Christian, cardinals, Church, Fathers, catacombs, collegiality, catechumenate, Catholic Creed, Communion of Saints, contemplation curia, ecumenical, faith, gentile, Mass, martyr, meditation, monastery, monastic life, heresy, hermit, icons, justice, option for the poor, ritual, liturgy, religious, pluralism, sacrament, sacramentals, Liturgy of the Hours, social justice, social doctrine, liberation, theology, Symbol, triune, marks of the Church, Trinity, signs of the times, Catholic Social Teaching

### **8.0 SCRIPTURE REFERENCES to be used to develop the themes of the religion standards.**

Genesis 12: 1-2 God's promise to Abraham; begin to gather the people of God

Exodus 1: 1-8 God initiates the covenant with Israel

Isaiah 2: 2-5 The Church is part of this fulfilment

Isaiah 55: 3,

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Promise of a new covenant

Isaiah 65: 17- 25 Image of the Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus

Isaiah 66: 18-21 God will gather all nations

Matthew 28: 16-20 Commissioning of the apostles

Acts 9: 1-9 Vision of Saul (Paul)

1 Corinthians 12: 4-13 Variety of Gifts

John 13: 34-36 The new Law of Love

John 6: 35-40 The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Luke 22: 14-20 The Holy Eucharist

Acts 2: 42-47 The fervor of the early Church

#### **Hebrew Scripture Books (46):**

Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

Historical Books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings

Chronicles History and the Later Histories:

1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 and 2

Maccabees

Wisdom Books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom, Sirach

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations (Jeremiah), Baruch, Ezekial, and

Daniel

Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk,

Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

#### **Christian Scriptures (26):**

Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Other Writings: Acts of the Apostles and Revelation

Letters: Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians,

Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon,

Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Jude