



St. Margaret Mary Religious Education, 1-8

Policies, Guidelines and Curriculum

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Dear Parents,

What a privilege to help your child grow closer to God! Thank you for entrusting me and our CCD teachers with this great task. With the Catholic Church, I firmly believe that there are no better educators of children than their parents. This is especially true for a child's religious formation. I have been blessed to study our faith formally, but can honestly say that my best theology teachers were my own mom and dad. The wisdom they shared is the foundation of my life.

I thank you for your commitment to your child's religious education by enrolling him/her in CCD at St. Margaret Mary. You obviously understand the importance of faith in our lives.

May I encourage you to make this time of your child's religious education a time for your own. As your child studies, I encourage you to study, too! There are many great resources to help us grow in this regard. I recommend the Our Sunday Visitor Website, www.osv.com, as a great starting point. You'll find there not only great supplemental material for your child, but a huge selection of resources, links, articles, etc, for your own interest.

I also extend myself to you as a friend in the Lord. I am always happy to help you – whether to answer questions or concerns you have about your child's religious education, to talk about our Catholic Faith, or to join you in prayer for your needs. You and your family are very important to me and to our parish of St. Margaret Mary..

May the Peace of Jesus Christ reign in your hearts and home!

With you in Christ,

Judene Indovina
Director of Religious Education



Made in the Image of God

Our Commitment

As a parent you know the inestimable worth of your child. As a Catholic community we strive to protect and nurture your child, respecting him/her as the image of God. Therefore, we seek to provide an environment which is safe and loving for every child. Our catechists play a special role in this. Catechists are held to various Diocesan policies for safe environment and catechetical certification. All parents and students are asked to foster this safe and Christian environment by showing kindness, helpfulness and respect to our catechists and to all.

Safe Environment

To ensure the safety of our students and the protection of our volunteers, the Diocese of Pittsburgh has implemented a safe environment policy. All adult catechists and aides are required to process a state police background check and child abuse clearance every five years. No adult is permitted to linger in the building during CCD classes who has not obtained his/her clearances.

Cardinal's Clause and Catholic Teaching

Catechists are representatives of the Catholic Church and are commissioned to instruct others in the Church's doctrines. Therefore, catechists agree, by signing a "Cardinal's Clause", to present the teachings of the Catholic Church and not personal opinion. Faithfully and accurately passing on our Catholic Faith is a critical way we help your child to grow as an image of God.

Registration



Who Can Attend

St. Margaret Mary Religious Education programs are open to members of the parish. Any one moving in to the area and joining our parish will be asked to provide verification of previous attendance at religious education classes. Those from local parishes who request to attend our program for legitimate reasons will be permitted if space is available, upon receipt of a letter from their pastor granting permission to attend our program. Also, non-parishioners must provide records of previous religious education.

How to Register

Each year families must renew registration for the religious education program. Registration begins generally in April for the coming year. Days and times of classes are assigned on a first come first serve basis.

When You Are Moving

If you plan to move or discontinue classes at any time, please notify the religious education office at 412-264-9368. Prior notification will enable us to duplicate your child's records. This will provide a smoother transition and hasten your child's proper placement in another CCD program.

Programs



St. Margaret Mary Parish offers the following religious education programs for students in grades one through eight.

Regular Elementary and Middle School Programs

Students in grades one through seven can participate in a program of religious education which meets once a week during the school year. This education builds on, but does not replace, the most important faith formation given at home, through parental instruction, family prayer and weekly attendance of Mass. Formation in the faith is a lifetime process and is nourished in the home beginning at birth.

First Reconciliation and First Communion

Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist normally takes place in second grade. It is the policy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh that children attend a year of first grade CCD before they are admitted to the second grade program, as the second grade curriculum is built upon material covered in first grade.

Confirmation

Normally preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation occurs in the eighth grade. It is the policy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh that students attend a year of seventh grade CCD before they are admitted to the Confirmation program, as the eighth grade curriculum is built upon the seventh grade curriculum. Confirmation preparation includes attendance of the majority of classes, completion of service projects and retreat attendance.

Parent Participation in Sacramental Programs

Parents are expected to participate in special sessions/meetings when their children are being prepared for the sacraments. These sessions are kept at a minimum to accommodate busy schedules.

Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC)

Sometimes children miss receiving certain sacraments (Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist) at the usual age/grade. St. Margaret Mary Parish welcomes the opportunity to help these children become fully initiated into the Catholic Church and provides a special program for them. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Children helps a child “get caught up” on the teachings of our Faith and be prepared for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. Classes occur throughout the school year. If a child is determined ready, he/she will receive the sacrament/s in the Spring. After the child receives his/her sacraments, the child is to continue religious education.

Students baptized but of another faith tradition may join our program. They are prepared for full communion with the Catholic Church. This includes making a profession of faith and receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Special Religious Education

St. Margaret Mary strives to provide for the religious instruction of our special needs children. The available catechists will determine the placement of the special needs child and other resources to best assist a child growing in loving relationship to God and neighbor, and to be prepared for the sacraments.

Home Schooling

Home schooling is available upon request and in consultation with the director of the program. Homeschooling parents are to attend meetings with the administrator. Children are encouraged to attend parish and CCD events, such as parish Reconciliation services. Testing occurs quarterly on-site at the CCD center.

Neighborhood Schooling

A group of parents may gather to instruct their children in their homes. Because the parents will be educating children other than their own, they are required to complete the usual requirements for catechists which include:

- Filing on the Diocesan website
- Completing one Protecting God's Children Workshop
- Renewing the state police background check and Child Abuse Clearance every five years.
- Maintaining Diocesan Catechetical Certification
- Attending teacher meetings
- Following all Diocesan procedures for religious education (see the Director for a copy of this manual)
- Filing all necessary insurance papers and permission slips in advance of class.

According to the policy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, no adult is permitted in the place of catechesis during instruction who has not obtained state police and child abuse clearances.



Attendance, Arrival and Dismissal



Sessions

Grades 1-7: Monday at 4:15-5:30 pm and 6:15-7:30 pm. Tuesday at 4:15-5:30 pm. **Grade eight:** Wednesday at 7:00-8:30 pm.

Calendar

The schedule of sessions/events is issued in the fall. Notification of changes in schedule will be published in the bulletin or through an email to parents. Please check the parish website as well.

Arrival

It is expected that students come **no earlier than 15 minutes before the session**. If a child needs to be at the CCD center earlier, the parent must make arrangements in advance with St. Margaret Mary Child Care. For further information on child care please call 412-264-9716. If you make arrangements with a baby-sitter please ensure that they follow the above policy.

Lock Down

For the safety of your child, it is the policy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh that all CCD programs be "locked down" during instruction time. If you or your child need to enter the building after classes begin, please ring bell at the front door to be assisted.

Parking Lot

Please drive carefully before, during and after CCD. Do not park or drive on the curb. Park so you can pull out rather than back up.

Dismissal

To keep dismissal as orderly as possible, children will be released by class. With the exception of first and second grade, parents are not to come to the child's room but wait outside until your child comes to the parking area. If children are not picked up in a reasonable amount of time, parents and if necessary, the emergency contact will be called. If no contact can be made, the child will wait at the parish office if the pastor is available. Otherwise, the police will be called.

Cancellations

If a session is cancelled, for example, due to inclement weather, notification will be given through KDKA and WPXI.

Absences

If an emergency situation arises to prevent attendance or punctuality, please telephone the religious education center. Please refrain from scheduling appointments or participating in sporting activities on days of religious instruction.

Upon return to class, a written excuse is required if you have not called the office. A post card is sent by the office assistant if a child misses one class. After three absences, the office assistant will call. Students are responsible for making up work that is missed. Significant number of absences may warrant making up the entire year.

Early Dismissals

No child will be dismissed early without a form from the parent and the administrator's knowledge. Parents will come to the office and show identification and fill out a form (if not done already). Parents are not to go to the classroom. An office assistant will come to the classroom for the child. *Children will not be released to non-parents without written consent from the parent.*

Classroom Policies and Discipline



Respect for Catechists

Catechists are volunteers and very often parents of students. They are not paid. They are dedicated persons who give generously to our community. Students are expected to respect their teachers and obey all classroom rules.

Bathroom Use

Because bathroom facilities are *extremely limited* in the CCD Center (there is only **one** toilet for all the students on the first floor), bathroom use is to be reserved for **emergencies only**. Parents are asked to get the children in the habit of using the bathroom **at home before coming to CCD**.

Cell Phones and Technology

Children may bring cell phones but may not use them during class. Phones are to be turned off. There will be a drop box on each teacher's desk where children will place their phones at the beginning of class. (Parents should label cell phones for identification purposes.) If parents and children need to contact each other during class they may do so through the CCD office phone. No other form of technology is permitted (DS, ipods, etc.) If found, these will be taken and returned after class. Parents will be notified of abuses.

Food and Drink

Unless a child has a medical excuse, no student is permitted to bring food or drink to class. If a child needs to eat dinner before class, he/she is to finish the meal entering the building.

Detention

When necessary the administrator may issue detention to students in grades 3-8 for discipline reasons. Detentions will be served before or after CCD, as arranged by the administrator and parent. For grades 3-6, detention is 20 minutes. For grades 7-8, detention is 30 minutes and may include community service.

Suspension

A student may be temporarily suspended by the administrator and pastor for a serious infraction of rules. Notice of suspension will be kept on file, detailing the reason for the suspension and what must be done to return to the classroom. The parents will meet with the administrator to evaluate how the expectations of the suspension have been met. *Parents will be responsible to homeschool their children during the time of suspension.*

Expulsion

Expulsion is applied in very serious circumstances. An expulsion may be necessary for persistent and willful disregard of the religious education rules. The following are examples but not limited to:

- Conduct seriously threatening the physical and/or moral well-being of the student, other students or staff
- Malicious disobedience/disrespect for authority
- Obstinate refusal by parents and/or student to comply with religious education policies
- Destruction of property
- Selling or using drugs or alcohol
- Violation of the weapons policy
- Any illegal activity

Weapons

Weapons of any nature are forbidden in the CCD building/property. A student carrying a weapon on church property poses a clear and present danger to students and staff. Parents are notified and the pastor, administrator and Diocesan officials determine a course of action.

Parent Responsibilities



Faith and Prayer at Home

The most important thing you can do for your child's religious education is to witness faith in your own life and share this faith with your child. ***Without an active life of faith in the home and weekly attendance of Mass, religious instruction in the classroom can accomplish very little.*** CCD years are a special time for growing closer to God with your child.

Teaching Children Their Prayers

Throughout the years of religious education, your child will be learning prayers. Please make sure he/she commits these to memory as they will be his/her "go to" prayers for the rest of his/her life. These prayers will also enable your child to participate fully in the sacraments. Directives on required prayers is found on page 18.

Prayer Services and Sacraments at CCD

Children will participate in liturgies, prayer services and devotional functions throughout the year. Students will be able to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation twice/year. Parents and family are most welcome to attend any of our functions. At the end of this book is a review of how to go to Confession. You may wish to use this for yourself and to help your child review how to participate in this sacrament of healing.



Studying at Home with Your Child

Home study is very important. Parents are urged to review any materials that are brought home. When absent, please make sure your child completes assignments and returns materials to class.

Report Cards

You child's teacher will prepare a report card each semester. Please read these carefully. Where there is room for improvement, please encourage your child to perform better, especially at the second semester so that your child can see development on his second report.

Communication

Our catechists are encouraged to keep communication open with you as a parent. Please do not hesitate to speak with your child's teacher, the office staff and the administrator about any questions, concerns or thoughts you may have.

Means of Communication

Please read the **church bulletin** regularly to be informed of schedule changes, special events and other pertinent information concerning our religious education program. Another source is the **parish website**. **Emails** will be sent as well to parents from the religious education office. *If you are not receiving emails, please check your service to make sure our notices are not being spammed. Also, call us immediately so we may troubleshoot.*

A note about social networking: It is the policy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh that **no catechist, parish volunteer or staff member may use social networking (email, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) with children**. Parents, teachers and staff may use social networking for communication with each other, however. Please notify the administrator of abuses.



Parent Volunteering

To make your child's experience of CCD as enriching as possible, we may from time to time have special events such as pageants/special celebrations. Parental help is always needed and welcome! In addition, we are always grateful for parents who can serve as teachers, substitute teachers, hall monitors, receptionists and aides. Please call the religious education office to learn more! Tell us the ways you can share your gifts!

Special Needs, Allergies and Medical Concerns

If your child has a special need (such as a health concern, allergy, or learning issue), please inform the religious education office at the time of registration so we can meet your child's needs. This information is especially helpful in the event of an emergency. Personal information is kept strictly confidential.

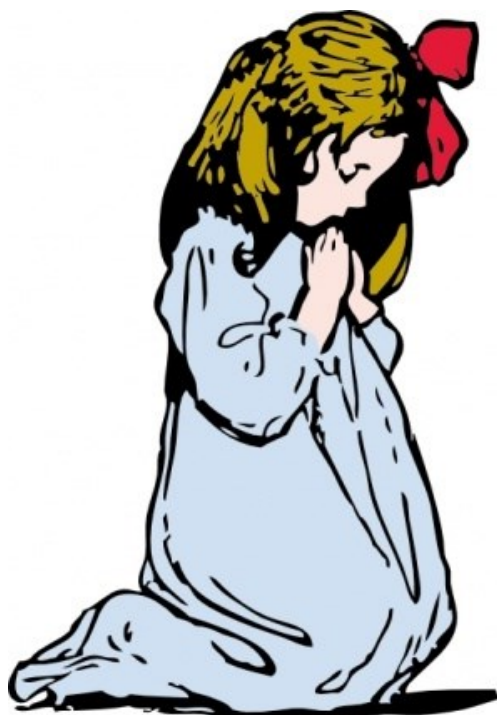
Medication

It is the responsibility of the parent to administer medication to their children either before or after religious education events and notify the parish regarding medical needs. Children are not to have medications on their person. Any exceptions to the above must be discussed with the administrator.

Divorce and Custody

In instances of divorce or legal separation, the custodial parent is responsible to provide the administrator with a current copy of official court order as to terms of custody and access to the child and his/her records as these issues often come into play at CCD.





Prayers Children Need to Know

PRAYERS TO KNOW

Children will be tested on the following prayers as indicated.

Parents are to regularly practice with children at home.

Grade 1:

Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and Angel of God.
Testing will occur when determined by classroom teacher.

Grade 2:

Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Angel of God and Act of Contrition. Testing will occur when determined by the classroom teacher.

Grade 3:

Quarter 1:	Sign of the Cross and Our Father
Quarter 2:	Hail Mary and Angel of God
Quarter 3:	Act of Contrition
Quarter 4:	Glory Be

Grade 4-7

Quarter 1:	Sign of the Cross and Our Father
Quarter 2:	Hail Mary and Angel of God
Quarter 3:	Act of Contrition and 10 Commandments
Quarter 4:	Apostles Creed and Glory Be

Classroom teachers (3-7) are free to test the students any time during the specified quarter. Dates for quarters in the 2013-14 year are:

Quarter 1:	September 15 – October 28
Quarter 2	November 10 – January 13
Quarter 3	January 26 – March 17
Quarter 4	March 23—May 11

SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen. (*Use right hand to sign oneself.*)

OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

ANGEL OF GOD

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.

ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead; the third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The following three prayers are not required for testing though they are recommended for personal / family devotion.

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O Lord, and these Your gifts which we are about to receive from Your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GRACE AFTER MEALS

We give You thanks, O almighty God, for all Your benefits, who lives and reigns forever, and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

MEMORARE

Remember o most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known, that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, o Virgin of all virgins, my Mother. To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Please help your child learn the 10 Commandments by heart:

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods beside Me.
2. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not lie.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbors goods.

HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION

The following is a guide for going to confession provided to help you review with your child as needed.

PENITENT:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It has been _____ since my last confession.

(Tell your sins to the priest and then say:)

I am sorry for these and all the sins of my past life.

PRIEST:

Talks to you and asks you to say a prayer or do something for someone as a penance.

PENITENT:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy.

PRIEST: God the Father of mercies. . I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PENITENT: **Amen.** *(Make the sign of the cross.)*

PRIEST: The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.

PENITENT: **Thanks be to God.**

(You return to the pew and say your penance if it was prayer.)



Curriculum

Curriculum

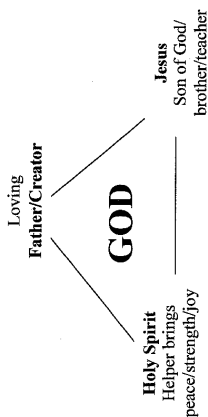
The Foundation: The foundation of the curriculum at St. Margaret Mary is Holy Scripture and Catholic teaching (Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition). The Diocese of Pittsburgh provides parishes with "Curriculum Guidelines for Religious Education" which guide the specifics of our instruction. We are currently using the "Call to Faith" Series from Our Sunday Visitor Publisher for our textbooks. The Confirmation Program uses the "One Eight" Curriculum from Life Teen. Our religious education administrator with the supervision of our pastor organize all of the above according to the needs of our community. A wealth of enrichment materials for families and children can be found at the Our Sunday Visitor website: www.OSV.com.

Bible Stories: Just as it is vital for children to learn their abc's, basic grammar and math facts in their elementary school years, so it is imperative that they become familiar with the fundamental stories of our faith as unfolded in the Bible. Each grade level has been assigned various stories from the Bible to help children know and be in awe of God's work of salvation history. Parents are encouraged to assist us in this work by frequently reading the Bible together at home as a family, and by purchasing children's Bibles for use at home if possible. Our administrator will send recommendations on various Bible resources for the home at the beginning of the year.

Catholic Vision of Love is a unique aspect of religious education in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This program for grades 1-8 gives children the basics of personal safety, and in middle school (grades 5-8), chastity and family life as well. Parents are invited to an annual meeting for a closer look at the program and may always speak to the administrator for info.

"Picture Maps" of the Curriculum by Grade

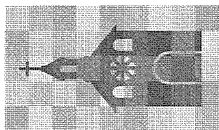
FIRST GRADE THEMES



God's family
We are sons & daughters by our Baptism
Includes all peoples
Grow to become

- Loving parents
- Single people
- Priests
- Religious brothers & sisters

We celebrate
Easter: the resurrection of Jesus



We are Catholic
Special parts of our church
crucifix, altar, tabernacle, baptismal font, holy water, reconciliation rooms

We belong to the Catholic Church

- Baptism: We become part of God's family
- The Eucharist: a meal & a sacrifice. We remember what Jesus did at the Last Supper. Jesus is with us in a special way
- Reconciliation: God shows us love & forgiveness. God forgives us if we are sorry. (Penance)

The Holy Family
Jesus
Mary: mother of Jesus
Joseph: foster father of Jesus

We celebrate

Christmas: the birth of Jesus

Revised 10/2008

SECOND GRADE THEMES

Jesus

- Son of God/man
- Died on the cross to save all in obedience to the Father
- Special gifts of his presence
 - Baptism—sharing in God's life
 - Penance—forgiveness
 - Eucharist—his Body and Blood
- Gave us the gift of forgiveness of sins after the Resurrection
- Ascended to the Father & sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always

- *Law of love:* Love God, others
- *Conscience:* God's voice in our hearts to choose to do what God calls us to do
- Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices.
- Following our conscience sets us free
- *Sin*—a break in our relationship with God

Sacrament of penance

- Ordinary means of forgiveness
- Sign of God's love & mercy
- We express sorrow for sin & we are forgiven
- We forgive others
- Welcomes us back to friendship with God & the community
- The priest has the power to forgive sins
- Celebrates conversion

Forgiveness also in penitential rite at Mass

Preparing for the Sacrament

- Think of my sins (commandments as a guide)
- Be sorry for my sins
- Resolve not to sin again



Steps in the Rite of Reconciliation

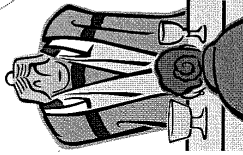
- Confess my sins
- Accept the penance
- Pray the prayer of the penitent (Act of Contrition)
- Absolution
- Do the penance the priest gives me.

Eucharist—sacrament of the body & blood of Jesus

- Jesus is present in the Word, church, Eucharist
- Jesus gave himself at the Last Supper
- The Mass commemorates Jesus' sacrifice
- Jesus continues to give himself in the bread & wine that becomes his Body & Blood
- We become more like Jesus by partaking of the Eucharist
- The most important prayer of the Church
- Jesus is really present
- Celebration of unity, reconciliation, peace
- Jesus shows His care for the entire people of God

The Mass

- Gathering: coming together, belonging
- *Liturgy of the Word*
- Listening to God's Word: stories about Jesus
- Presentation & preparation of the gifts: offering ourselves with Jesus to the Father
- *Liturgy of the Eucharist*
- Eucharistic Prayer: the bread & wine become the Body & Blood of Jesus
- We remember & give thanks for Jesus' death & resurrection
- Receiving Jesus, our food
- Going out to help others



Church Ministries

Altar server
Lector
Greeter
Usher

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
Music ministry

Liturgical seasons and Holy days

- Advent
- Christmas
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Ordinary time
- Saints, Mary

Family life

Sharing, protecting, teaching

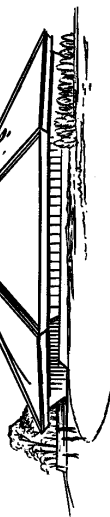
Different roles:

Married
Single
Sister
Brother
Priest

THIRD GRADE THEMES

The Church

- Family of God
- Living Body of Christ
- Holy Spirit draws us together
- Jesus present in the sacraments
 - Esp. the Eucharist
- Pope—head, successor of Peter
- Pope & bishops guard the teachings
- We believe the teachings
- We share (the Church is One)
 - ◆ In the Eucharist
 - ◆ Our beliefs
 - ◆ Praying together
 - ◆ Sharing with others
- We listen to God as Jesus did (Holy Spirit)
- We welcome all (Catholic)



Vocation

Use our talents & abilities as sister, brother, priest, deacon, married or single person

Death

Beginning of living with God forever to those who are faithful

Commandments

- Summarized as
- Love God
 - Love others

God's Kingdom

- Jesus' words and actions tell us about the Kingdom
- Followers are part of the Kingdom

Apostles

- Servants
- Peter—leader
- Holy Spirit came at Pentecost
- Bishops-successors-leaders today

Creed

Statement of our beliefs

- About God
- Jesus
- The Spirit
- The Church

Mary

- Mother of God
- Our Mother
- Model of Faith

Saints

- Responded well to living God's life of grace
- Examples of faith

FOURTH GRADE THEMES



Commandments

- Covenant/promise between God and His people in the Old Testament
- Guides our actions
- Summarized as *Love God—Love Others*

Beatitudes

- What makes us happy
- A guide in right relationships

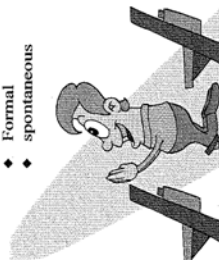
Mary

- Faithful follower of Jesus
- Individual gifts & talents lead us to be priests, sisters, brothers, married or single people



Prayer

- ♦ Communal
- ♦ Formal
- ♦ spontaneous



Spiritual & Corporal Works of Mercy

- ♦ Care for ALL especially the poor

Sin & Reconciliation

- Personal conversion
- Sorrow, forgiveness, reconciliation
- Making good moral choices
- Sin & evil exists as a result of original sin
- Mortal—total break in relationship with God
- Venial—weakens our relationship with God, self, others
- Distinguish between accident, temptation, free choice
- Sacrament of penance—express sorrow & experience God's forgiveness

Precepts of the Church

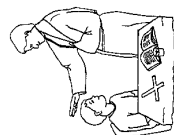
- ♦ Church laws
- ♦ Holy days
- ♦ Fast days
- ♦ Receiving the sacraments
- ♦ Studying church teaching
- ♦ Helping in missionary work

Revised 10/2008

FIFTH GRADE THEMES

Sacraments

- ♦ Jesus—sacrament of God—visible sign of God's love for all
- ♦ Church—sacrament of Christ in the world
- ♦ Signs & symbols in our daily life
- ♦ Sacramental signs & symbols: experience the presence of God
- ♦ Sacraments contain both word & symbol
- ♦ Bring God into our lives
- ♦ Bring us into God's life (*grace*)

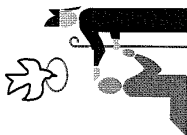


Baptism

- ♦ Initial encounter with sacramental Christ
- ♦ Dying of self to sin
- ♦ Sharing in the risen life of Christ
- ♦ Belonging to the Church

Confirmation

- ♦ Completion of initiation
- ♦ A call to grow in faith & witness
- ♦ Empowerment through the gifts & fruits of the Spirit



Penance

- A celebration of God's forgiveness, healing, unending love
- An absolution of our sins
- A reunion between us & God & the Church
- Responsible for our actions
- Decision making
- Live moral lives

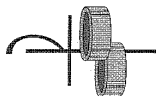


Eucharist

- ♦ Center of sacramental life
- ♦ Consecrated by the priest
- ♦ The real presence of Jesus
- ♦ Nourishing, strengthening & unifying source for the people of God
- ♦ Liturgy—public worship of the Church

Vocation

- ❖ Response to Baptismal call
- ❖ Married
- ❖ Vowed religious
- ❖ Priest
- ❖ single



Matrimony

- ❖ A covenant reflects love between Christ & the Church
- ❖ Life-long love & commitment between a man and a woman
- ❖ The couple is love-giving & life-giving

Holy Orders

- ❖ A permanent sign of Christ's presence through the priest
- ❖ The sacramental presence of Christ
- ❖ Orders: bishop, priest, deacon



Anointing of the Sick

- ❖ Healing of Christ to seriously ill/sick
- ❖ Relief & strength for the sick person
- ❖ Sin taken away
- ❖ Sometimes restoration of bodily health



Other facets of our Catholic tradition

- Liturgical seasons: Advent, Lent, Holy days
- Building up the Body of the Church by the works of mercy, work for peace & justice
- Sacramentals—objects, blessings, actions that remind us of Christ's presence and love



Catholic Vision of Love

- ❖ Self-Respect: Loving yourself
- ❖ Changes we experience: Growth & Development, sexuality as a gift from God
- ❖ Friendship, Love, and Life
- ❖ Christ in my Home and in my Life

The End Time

- ❖ Death—personally accountable for choices
- ❖ End Time—all will be accountable for building up the kingdom
- ❖ Heaven—Living in complete union with God forever
- ❖ Hell—separated from God forever
- ❖ Purgatory—continuing journey after death which moves us toward complete union with God forever

SIXTH GRADE THEMES



Scriptures

- ❖ Inspired Word of God
- ❖ Developed from an oral tradition of lived experience of God's presence
- ❖ Different literary forms
- ❖ Church has authority to interpret the Scriptures
- ❖ Stories of how God reveals Himself through the lives of men & women
- ❖ Major themes: Revelation, Covenant, Redemption, Salvation
- ❖ Old Testament relationship between God and the people of Israel
- ❖ Old Testament: prefigure and foretell about Jesus
- ❖ Jesus as a member of the Jewish community
- ❖ New Testament: reveal the life, death, resurrection of Jesus
- ❖ Jesus is prophet, messiah, divine, human, Son of God

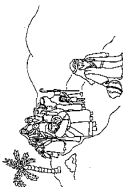


Creation & the Fall

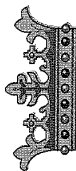
- ❖ To understand who we are
- ❖ What God wants for us
- ❖ Who God created us to be
- ❖ How we are to live



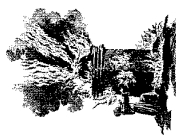
Abraham, Moses and other ancestors in faith
❖ Examples of how to respond in faith



Exodus: Israelites journey from slavery to freedom



Kings: Saul, David, Solomon
❖ Waiting for the *anointed* one



Prophets: Jeremiah, Ezekiel & others
❖ Call people back to a faithful way of living



Angels: Spiritual beings who honor God at all times & sometimes act as God's messengers.

Church

- ❖ Mission of Jesus kept alive in the Church by the presence of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ People of God all believers who accept Jesus Christ
- ❖ Find fullness of truth & life in Catholic Church—living Body of Christ
- ❖ Elements of truth in other faith traditions: other Christians, Orthodox, Jewish
- ❖ All need to work together for unity & the coming of God's kingdom

Catholic Vision of Love

Vocation

- ❖ Call
- ❖ Paths to choose: marriage, priest, religious, single
- ❖ Needed: a chaste heart

Being Responsible for your own life

- ❖ Choices
- ❖ Responsible for free decisions
- ❖ Seriousness of sin

Life is Worth Living

- ❖ Living well; Christ as a model
- ❖ Sexuality is good

Love

- ❖ Love of God and neighbor
- ❖ Generous love finds fulfillment
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Abortion and euthanasia destroy life
- ❖ Purity and chastity

7th Grade Themes

JESUS

- ❖ God/man, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Two natures divine/human united in one person
- ❖ Son of God—signifies relationship with God the Father
- ❖ Second Person of the Blessed Trinity

Messiah

- ❖ Sent by God the Father
- ❖ Bring good news
- ❖ Healing
- ❖ Freedom to the poor and oppressed

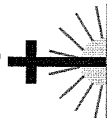
Mysteries of Christ's Public Life

- ❖ Baptism
- ❖ Temptations
- ❖ Announcement of the Kingdom
- ❖ Miracles: signs of God's power and love
- ❖ Transfiguration
- ❖ Ascent to & Entry into Jerusalem
- ❖ Suffering, death & Resurrection

- Jesus did really die
- Through his death & Resurrection conquered death & the devil
- Redeemed us from sin & death
- Holy women & men came to believe through the empty tomb & appearances of Jesus
- ❖ Christ is the heavenly high priest
- Intercedes for us

Mission

- ❖ To save people from sin
- ❖ To lead them to the kingdom



The Beatitudes

- ❖ Gave a new commandment of love
- ❖ Guide to the values of God's kingdom

Gospels

- ❖ Divinely inspired
- ❖ How the early Church understood
 - Its faith experience
 - The risen Christ in their lives

Through the Holy Spirit Jesus is present

- ❖ In the Church
- ❖ In the sacraments
- ❖ In the Christian community

MARY

- ❖ Mother of God
- ❖ Model of faith
- ❖ Immaculate Conception: from the moment of her conception was totally preserved from the stain of original sin & remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life.



Morality

- Conforming our minds & hearts to that of Christ
- Jesus is the ultimate example
- Moral values reflect the heart & mind of Christ
- Living a moral life is an response to God's covenant love
- We cannot merit contentment, joy, fulfillment & fullness of heaven—a supernatural gift

Choices & consequences

- Choices have consequences
- Rights & responsibilities
- For an act to be good
 - ✓ Object is good
 - ✓ Intention is good
 - ✓ Circumstances are good

True freedom

- Embrace of God's laws

Conscience

- Secret core
- God speaks in the depths of our hearts
- Judgment of reason
- Helps us to recognize the moral quality of a human action
- Call to conversion

Formation of Conscience

- Life-long task
- Prayer needed
- Fidelity to Church's teaching
- Guidance of the Magisterium

Moral Law

- There is objective evil

- There are moral absolutes (right & wrong)
- Expressed in the Ten Commandments

Commandments

1st: I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.

Positive expression	Negative expression
Hope	Despair, presumption, tempting God
Worship of God alone	Idolatry, sacrilege, simony

2nd: You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

Positive expression	Negative expression
Respect the name of Jesus	False oaths, perjury, cursing, blasphemy

3rd: Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.

Positive expression	Negative expression
Sunday; day of Resurrection	
Sunday liturgy heart of Church	Not attending sinful

4th: Honor your father and your mother

Positive expression	Negative expression
Family: man & woman united in marriage, children Sign & image of the Trinity Purpose of marriage: good of the spouses, children Love & respect to all as God's children	Denial of the rights of families. Unions violating God's plan for marriage. Denial of love and respect to any person.
Respect for parents Duties of citizens: vote, pay tax, defend country	

5th: You shall not kill.

Positive expression	Negative expression
Concern for human rights, especially. . .	Abortion: willed, excommunication
human life at all stages: from conception to natural death	Death penalty
	Stereotyping those with disabilities
	Euthanasia
	Suicide
Local & global concerns	Child abuse, ageism, racism, sexism; trafficking of human persons
	Use of drugs; trafficking drugs
Justice & charity—peace	Injustice of war

6th: You shall not commit adultery.

Positive expression	Negative expression
Human sexuality is a gift	Masturbation, fornication,
Sexual act in marriage	“living together,” homosexual acts, adultery
Dignity of marriage	Pornography, prostitution, rape
Children	Cloning, in vitro fertilization, refusing ordinary care to the infirm

7th: You shall not steal.

Positive expression	Negative expression
Good stewards	Poverty, environmental abuse, violence
Rich nations work for development of poorer	
Use talents for the good	

8th: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Positive expression	Negative expression
Reputation & honor	Rash judgment, detraction, calumny, gossip

9th: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

Positive expression	Negative expression
Chastity	Lust, sexual impurity, immodesty,
Purity	all violations against the sacrament of marriage
Modesty	

10th: You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Positive expression	Negative expression
Set hearts on the Kingdom	Detachment

Sin

- Rupture in our relationship with God
- Intentional, choosing to do evil
- Venial, mortal
- Cooperating with others in sin
- Sin is social in nature
- Skills needed: discernment, critical evaluation in viewing cultural values

Life of Grace

- Eternal life
- Develop moral virtues
- Prayer & Eucharist foster moral life

Subsidiarity—nothing should be done at a higher level of society when it could be accomplished at a lower.

8th Grade Themes

THE CHURCH

- ❖ Guided by the Holy Spirit to know the Father through the Son
- ❖ Come to know Jesus through the Church & become like him
- ❖ Community with hierarchical structure; head Pope; know through faith
- ❖ Proclaims the Good News
- ❖ Creeds—answers doctrinal questions; belief of early Church
- ❖ Sacred Scripture & Sacred Tradition (collected teachings & lived experience)—contain fullness of God's revelation
- ❖ Spirit continues to guide the Church
- ❖ Proclaims the Good News
- ❖ Sacraments are a continuation of Jesus' ministry & presence
- ❖ All Christian churches form the People of God; linked with the Roman Catholic Church
- ❖ Mary, Mother of the Church

Organization with differing leadership roles

- ❖ Clerical
- ❖ Lay
- ❖ Pope & bishops together teach definitively
- ❖ Form a college of which the Pope is the head

Images used

- ❖ Mystical Body of Christ
- ❖ Temple of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Flock of Christ
- ❖ Vineyard
- ❖ Trinitarian: reflects the Trinity
- ❖ People of God

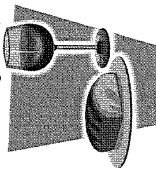
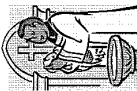


Marks of the Church

- ❖ One
- ❖ Holy
- ❖ Catholic
- ❖ Apostolic

Initiation through

- ❖ **Baptism**
 - Incorporated into the Church
 - Share in priesthood, prophetic mission, & kingship of Christ
 - Necessary for salvation
 - Baptism of Blood
 - Baptism of Desire
 - Forgiveness of original & person sin
 - Birth into new life
- ❖ **Confirmation**—full initiation
 - Enables us to develop our talents as members of the church
 - Strengthens us to serve God
- ❖ **Eucharist**
 - Bread & wine becomes the Body & Blood of Christ
 - Christ is present completely under either form
 - Memorial of Christ's Passover; makes it present; Paschal mystery
 - Thanksgiving
 - Christ is present
 - In the presider
 - The Word of God
 - The assembly
 - The Eucharist

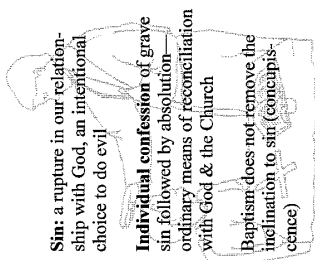


- ❖ **The Liturgical Year:** unfolding the mystery of Christ: Incarnation, Nativity through Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost



The Human Person

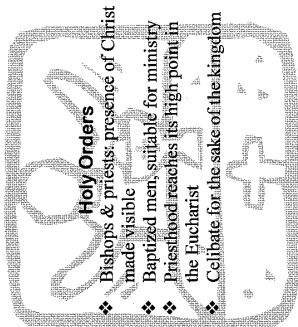
- ❖ God's image
- ❖ Called to holiness
- ❖ Unique & gifted
- ❖ Develop faith relationship with Jesus
- ❖ Shaped by:
 - ❖ Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy
 - ❖ Cardinal virtues
 - ❖ Theological virtues
 - ❖ Role models: Catholic values
 - ❖ Skills needed form healthy relationships, prayer life
 - ❖ Friendship—views provided by Scripture



Sin: a rupture in our relationship with God, an intentional choice to do evil

Individual confession of grave sin followed by absolution—ordinary means of reconciliation with God & the Church

Baptism does not remove the inclination to sin (concupiscence)



Holy Orders

- ❖ Bishops & priests: presence of Christ made visible
- ❖ Baptized men, suitable for ministry
- ❖ Priesthood reaches its high point in the Eucharist
- ❖ Celibate for the sake of the kingdom

Liturgy (sacraments)

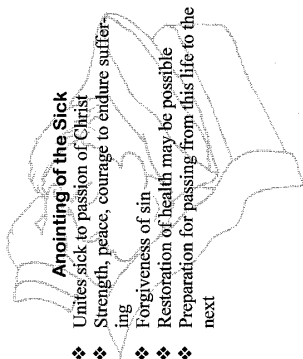
- ❖ Parts divinely given & unchangeable
- ❖ Parts that can be adapted to the culture

Matrimony

- Christ is present in the marriage
- Permanent
- Must be open to having children
- Divorced & remarried without an annulment remain in the Church but cannot receive communion

Anointing of the Sick

- ❖ Unites sick to passion of Christ
- ❖ Strength, peace, courage to endure suffering
- ❖ Forgiveness of sin
- ❖ Restoration of health may be possible
- ❖ Preparation for passing from this life to the next



Confirmation Themes

THE CREED

God the Creator

- Creation of good
- God's unconditional love
- We are part of salvation history
- Our role in creation

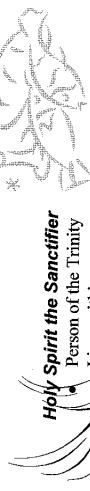


Jesus & the Paschal Mystery

- God's love for the world = Jesus
- Paschal Mystery = life, death, resurrection of Jesus
- Daily life & the Paschal Mystery
- Baptism: Immersion into life of Christ
- Eucharist: Real presence
- Called to be Eucharist

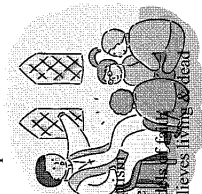
Holy Spirit the Sanctifier

- Person of the Trinity
- Lives within us
- Calls us to membership in the Church
- Empowers us to mission of Christ
- Empowers us to proclaim the Gospel
- Enlightens our choices



Church as Community of Life

- Family of faith
- Called to holiness through baptism
- Offers support, care, guidance
- Godparents & sponsors – models of faith
- Communion of saints – all believes living & dead
- Human & divine
- Liturgy – celebration of the Word & Eucharist



Practice of Virtue

- Free will
- Sin exists: personal & social
- Own our choices
- Good choices: empowered by the Spirit
- Hope: Jesus triumphed over evil

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

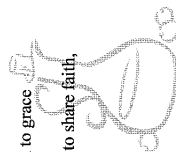
(Confirmation)

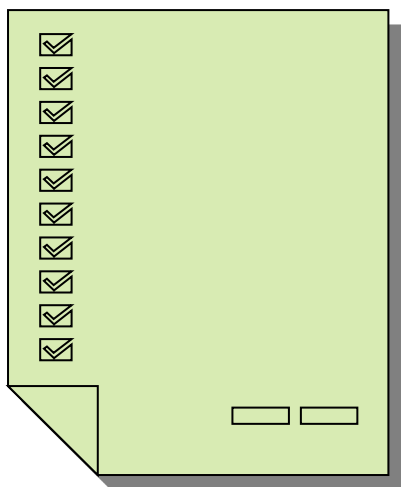
- Sacraments touch all of our life
- Lay the foundations of the Christian life
- Confirmation completes Baptism
- Enriched with the Spirit in a special way
- Historical approach to Confirmation

Symbols of the Spirit: Rite of Confirmation

- Renewal of Baptismal promises connects with Confirmation
- Imposition of hands confirming divine power
- Anointing with oil symbolizes selection & strength
- Marked with the sign of the cross sharing in the life of Christ
- Amen is personal affirmation to be Christ's presence in the world.

- Christian life: continual conversion to grace
- Paschal Mystery in our life
- Empowered with gifts of the Spirit to share faith, continue the mission of Jesus





Forms for CCD

Parents may Xerox the following forms
or obtain copies from the religious education office as needed.

Form A
Early Dismissal Form

Student's name _____

Name of person picking up child _____

Status of person: Mother, Father, Legal Guardian or other
picking child up _____

Reason for early dismissal _____

Date of early dismissal _____

Time of early dismissal _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian _____

Signature of individual picking up child for early dismissal (to be
signed in the presence of the Catechetical Administrator or duly a
pointed representative) _____

Affidavit of Catechetical Administrator

The individual named by the parent or legal guardian above signed
the form in my presence.

_____ Produced I.D.
_____ Its known to me by sight.

Signature of Administrator (or representative)

Date

Form B
Consent to Publish

Permission is hereby granted to St. Margaret Mary Parish to use photographs, films/video, quotations, and/or voice recordings of:

Print or type name of student or other participant

to assist in its worship and educational efforts on its projection screens in the church and in religious education and in its church bulletin.

It is hereby stipulated that such use of said photographs, films/video, quotations, and/or voice recordings will not violate the rights of the named individual, his/her legal representatives, nor his/her respective heirs, and I do hereby indemnify and hold harmless any agents, servants, employees, and/or representative of St. Margaret Mary Parish from any and all claims, demands, and/or causes of action of whatever kind or nature arising from the use of photographs, films/video, quotations, and/or voice recordings or their actions taken pursuant to this authority.

I further agree that I waive any right to compensation, fee, or royalty for myself, my successors, heirs, or assigns for the production or use of the aforesaid materials.

Further, it is hereby stipulated and agreed that St. Margaret Mary Parish will not incur any liability for payment to any person or organization as a result of the stated use of the aforesaid photographs, films/video, quotations, and/or voice recordings or the named individual.

Date

Signature of participant listed above

Signature of parent/guardian if minor

Relationship to minor

Street address

City, State, Zip

Field Trip Registration

Name of Trip:	Date of Trip:	
Name	Age	Sex
Address		
City, State, Zip	Phone	
School	Grade	Birth Date

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE IN 7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE EVENT

PERMISSION

I/we, the parents or guardians of the above mentioned child, for myself/ourselves and for my/our child, give permission for my/our child to participate in the above mentioned Field Trip on the above dates.

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

In the event of any injury or illness to my/our child during his/her participation in this field trip I/we hereby give permission for the necessary medical treatment to be given to my/our child.

I/we agree that in case of injury to my/our child, I/we will apply my/our hospitalization and/or accident insurance toward payment of the expenses incurred and will not look to St. Margaret Mary Parish or the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh for the payment of any medical costs or injury related costs.

Parent/Guardian Signature	Phone #
Insurance Company	Policy #
Name and Phone Number of Person if parent/guardian is not available	

Thanks to Derek Danko at
The Printing Press
246 Moon Clinton Road, Moon Twp, PA
for assisting us in the publishing of this book!