

Grade 1

Theme: Introduction to the Catholic faith.

Grade 1 introduces the student to the Catholic faith. It gives an overview of the basic beliefs of our faith, beginning with the Mystery of the Trinity and who God is as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The students begin to learn about Jesus – who he is, his life among us, and his death and resurrection. They are also introduced to the sacraments, especially Baptism, Eucharist, and Reconciliation.

Key Concepts

Creation

The Blessed Trinity – God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Mary and the Saints

The Bible

The Church Year

The Church

The Sacraments

Our Faith Believed Doctrine - Message

Creation

1. God created the world.
2. We learn about God through creation.

The Blessed Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Trinity or Blessed Trinity is three persons in one God.

God the Father

1. God the Father is the first person of the Trinity.
2. God is a loving Father.
3. God the Father cares for us.
4. God the Father sent Jesus to us.

God the Son

1. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity.
2. Jesus is the Son of the Father.
3. Jesus is divine.
4. Jesus is the son of Mary and Joseph.
5. Jesus is human.
6. Jesus helps us to know God the Father.

7. Jesus came to save us so that we can have new life – eternal happiness with him in heaven.

God the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.
2. The Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit to us.
3. The Holy Spirit is the love of God with us, and the life of God within us, which is called grace.
4. The Holy Spirit is our helper.
5. The Holy Spirit guides the Church.

Mary and the Saints

1. Mary is the Mother of Jesus.
2. Mary is the Mother of God.
3. Mary is our Mother and Mother of the Church.
4. The saints are models – they show us how to love God and love others.

The Bible

1. The Bible is a holy book of God's word.
2. The Bible contains the story of Jesus' life and the stories Jesus told.
3. Jesus told stories to help us know God.

Our Faith Celebrated Sacramental Life in Community

The Church Year

1. The Church has different times, or Seasons, during the year in which it celebrates special events in Jesus' life and our life as Church.
2. Seasons to study: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter
3. Special Feast Days to study: Feasts of Mary, Pentecost, All Saints Day

The Church

1. The Church continues Jesus' work today.
2. The Church family is made up of all the people of the past – the Saints - and the present.
3. We are the Church.
4. We become members of the Church through Baptism.

The Sacraments

1. The Sacraments are signs of God's love.
2. There are seven sacraments that the Church celebrates.

Baptism

1. Through Baptism we belong, we enter God's family – the Church.
2. Through Baptism we become children of God.

3. Through Baptism we become followers of Jesus.
4. The Signs and actions of Baptism – water, oil, candle, white garment.

Eucharist

1. At Mass we celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
2. Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” We thank God for sending Jesus.
3. God speaks to us through the readings at Mass.
4. The Eucharist is the “meal” that the Church family gathers to celebrate.
5. At the First Eucharist Jesus gave us his Body and Blood.
6. We receive Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass.

Reconciliation

1. When we disobey God and turn away from God we sin.
2. God loves and forgives us when we are sorry.
3. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we receive God’s mercy and forgiveness.

Our Faith Lived

Our Moral Life and the Church’s Social Justice Teaching

Leading to Mission - Service through Action

Our Moral Life

1. God created each person, and God loves each one of us; each one of us is good.
2. God gave us the gift of our bodies.
3. We accept this gift and God’s love for us by doing what is good for our bodies – eating, sleeping, washing, etc.

Social Justice Teaching

1. God wants us to care for all of God’s creation, because all creation is good.

Suggested Action: Do a class project, such as plant flowers, clean up an area around the church.

Our Faith Prayed

Prayers to Know

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Glory to the Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Our Father

Suggested Informal Prayer

Grade 1 Prayer Service thanking God for all of creation. Service can focus on our five senses and how we experience God’s creation through our senses of taste, touch, smell, sight, and hearing.