

Grade 5

Theme: The Sacraments

Grade 5 focuses on the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church and how they are signs of God's life and love in us. Each one of the sacraments is studied in depth, with particular attention paid to the Sacraments of Initiation. It is highly recommended that during this year the students spend a semester studying the Sacrament of Reconciliation to enable them to understand sin and God's mercy on an older level than when they first received this sacrament.

Key Concepts

The Blessed Trinity/The Creed
The Church Year
The Church
The Sacraments

Our Faith Believed Doctrine – Message

The Blessed Trinity/The Creed

1. The Trinity is a community of love – one God, three divine persons.
2. God is creator of the universe.
3. God speaks to us through creation, revealing who God is.
4. God speaks to us through scripture.
5. Jesus is human and divine.
6. Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary.
7. Jesus came to be the fullest revelation of who God is – that God is love.
8. Jesus is the sign of God's love.
9. We learn about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus through Sacred Scripture.
10. The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of Sacred Scripture.
11. The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus.
12. The Holy Spirit is our helper and advocate.
13. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles on the first Pentecost.
14. The Holy Spirit continues to lead and guide the Church and us as individuals today.
15. The Creed contains our beliefs about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and about the Church Jesus founded.

Our Faith Celebrated

Sacramental Life in Community

The Church Year

1. Overview of the Liturgical Year.
2. The Liturgical Year celebrates the life of Jesus, Mary and the Saints, and the Church.
3. Seasons and feasts of the Church year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, the Sacred Triduum, Easter Vigil, Easter, All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Feast of the Assumption.

The Church

1. The Church carries on the mission of Jesus today.
2. The Church nourishes, forgives, heals, serves, and strengthens us through the Sacraments.
3. We, as Church, are called to nourish, heal, forgive, serve, and strengthen each other by the way we live.

The Sacraments

1. The Seven Sacraments are signs of God's love.
2. In the Sacraments we experience God's grace – a share in God's life and love.
3. We become members of the Church through a process of conversion and initiation.
4. Today the Church celebrates the Sacraments of Initiation for adults through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), also called the catechumenate.
5. The Seven Sacraments are:
 - a. Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
 - Baptism - begins our new life with God
 - initiates us into the Church
 - symbols: water, oil, candle, white garment
 - Confirmation – seals us with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - strengthens us to conform our life to Jesus
 - symbols: oil, laying on of hands
 - Eucharist – means “thanksgiving”
 - is a meal - nourishes us
 - is a sacrifice - makes the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' passion/death/resurrection present to us now
 - Liturgy of the Word: God is present and speaks to us through the Word
 - Liturgy of the Eucharist: God is present and nourishes us through the bread and wine that becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus
 - symbols: Word, bread, wine
 - b. Sacraments of Healing – Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
 - Reconciliation – source of God's mercy and forgiveness
 - Examination of Conscience
 - symbol: laying on of hands

- The Rite of Reconciliation:
 - Word of God
 - Confession of Sin
 - Act of Contrition
 - Penance
 - Absolution
 - Thanksgiving

Anointing of the Sick – brings Jesus’ strength to the elderly, sick, dying

- prays for physical healing so that person can continue to be part of, or be restored to health, and rejoin the community
- helps those who are dying continue their journey to God
- symbol: oil

c. Sacraments of Service – Marriage, Holy Orders

Marriage, Matrimony – lifelong, loving covenant relationship between the husband and wife

- The couple are ministers of this sacrament
- Jesus is present in the marriage and gives the couple the grace to build a loving family
- The commitment of the couple is a sign of Jesus’ faithfulness to his Bride, the Church
- symbols: vows (promises)/rings

Holy Orders – a sign of the special priesthood of Jesus

- celebrates ordained ministry
- Bishops, priests, deacons are ordained for ministry
- Gives us leaders for the community of the Church who serve as Jesus served:
 - preach and teach Good News of Jesus
 - lead in celebrating sacraments
 - lead to build up the community
 - serve the poor and those in need
- symbols: laying on of hands

Our Faith Lived

Our Moral Life and the Church’s Social Justice Teaching Leading to Mission - Service through Action

Our Moral Life

1. Marriage (Matrimony) is a sacrament of service that involves a lifelong, loving relationship of commitment between husband and wife.
2. Within this commitment husbands and wives express their emotional and physical love for each other.
3. They serve the Church by their love and share in God’s creation in a very special way when they give birth to children.

Social Justice Teaching

1. The Church carries on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
2. As the Church, we are meant to carry on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
3. When we are good stewards and give our time for others, we are carrying on the mission of Jesus in the world today.

Suggested Action

1. As a class decide how and with whom they would like to share their time.
2. Focus on what we receive in the sacraments – how we are fed, forgiven, and strengthened, and see if they can come up with a project in one of these areas - perhaps focusing on how to overcome prejudice and bring about reconciliation between people, or provide food for the needy.

Our Faith Prayed

Required Prayers and Doctrine

Review of Grade 4 Prayers:

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Glory to the Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Our Father
5. Act of Contrition – older version
6. Apostles' Creed
7. Ten Commandments
8. Beatitudes
9. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Doctrine to add

The Seven Sacraments – and the meaning of each

Suggestions for Prayer Services

1. A Prayer Service can be created around the Sacrament of Reconciliation and could be a Prayer Service on the theme of forgiveness.
2. A Prayer Service can be created around all the Sacraments, which focuses on how we are meant to live the meaning of each sacrament in our daily lives.

During Grade 5, the year in which the students review the Sacraments, it is strongly recommended that one segment of the year be devoted to an in depth study of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to present this important sacrament on an older level. Using one of the books listed below, and eliminating some of the chapters from the normal Grade 5 text will accomplish this objective.

Benziger, *Reconciliation: A Catechesis for Middle Grades*, 1994.

Silver Burdett Ginn, *We Celebrate Reconciliation: The Lord Forgives*, 1990.

(Ages 9-11)