

Curriculum Standards

Performance Indicators

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Sample Activities

For Children of Ages Thirteen and Fourteen

or

those in Grade Seven and Eight

## Word Bank

Capitalism  
Catechumenate  
Counter-cultural  
Evangelization  
Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
Neophyte  
RCIA  
Theological virtues  
Vowed life  
Cardinal virtues  
Catholic Social Principles  
Discrimination  
Formation of Conscience  
Morality  
Poverty  
Social Justice  
Vatican Council  
Catechumen  
Church documents  
Elect  
Fruits of the Holy Spirit  
Mystagogy  
Pro-life  
Stewardship  
Virtue



## Prayers to be introduced...

Centering Prayer      Liturgy of the Hours



## Prayers to "learn by heart."

Sign of the Cross      Morning Offering      Our Father

Apostles Creed      Grace before and after meals

Hail Mary      Morning and Evening Prayer      Glory Be

Liturgical responses      Act of Contrition

## Prayers to Practice

Act of Hope      Angelus      Regina Coeli  
Mysteries of the Rosary      Hail Holy Queen  
Morning Offering      Nicene Creed      Psalms  
Rosary      Stations of the Cross      Act of Faith  
Prayer to the Holy Spirit      Prayer of Imagination  
Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)      Act of Love  
Spontaneous prayer      Memorare      Gloria  
Prayer before Blessed Sacrament (Divine Praises)

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Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom.

Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship.

Parents should be encouraged to help children learn the required prayers at home.

Foster participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community.

# Creed



## Standard #1 Faith

Present an understanding of the human need for God based on revelation and faith.

### Performance Indicators

- ~Discuss how God knows us and calls us by name.
- ~Know that God is revealed most fully to us in Jesus.
- ~Use the Bible to find examples of Jesus' victory over sin and evil.
- ~Relate incidents from the New Testament which illustrate Jesus as Savior.
- ~Explain that faith is a personal response to Jesus and requires a relationship with him.

**Assessment :** How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

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### Some Sample Activities



Use selected miracle stories to demonstrate the importance of faith in developing a personal relationship with Jesus (LK 8:40-48, 49-56; MT 9:27-31).



Engage young people in a discussion about those in whom they have faith or trust (e.g. parents, friends) and the characteristics of the relationships. Then, connect this understanding to a relationship with Jesus.



Provide time for the young people to create a drawing, compose a paragraph or write lyrics for a song which answers the question - Who is Jesus for you?



Read Scripture passages that demonstrate the relationship Jesus has with those who accept him (e.g. JN 10:14,15; JN 15:14-16; MT 11:28-30; JN 10:3).

Other activities I found useful...



## Standard #2 Scripture

Read, understand, interpret and apply Scripture to life.

### Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize the Bible as a collection of many books written under God's inspiration.
- ~Illustrate how Scripture teaches us about the person of Jesus and what following him and living the Good News means.
- ~Identify the key themes of the Good News that are found in the New Testament.
- ~Examine the teachings of Jesus about God, prayer, justice and peace, service and a moral life.
- ~Appreciate that reading Scripture can be prayer.

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### Some Sample Activities



Provide magazines and newspapers from which the young people can collect pictures/articles that represent the beatitudes. Provide wall space or a bulletin board, etc. where the pictures/articles can be displayed.



Engage the group in a discussion about the differences between the Gospels and the Epistles.



Using one gospel, point out the different components, e.g. parables, miracles, prayers, etc. What does each tell us about Jesus the Teacher?



Role play a parable. What does the parable teach us about following Jesus?



List the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. From a prepared list of Scripture passages, ask the group to match passages with the appropriate Works of Mercy.

Other activities I found useful...

# Creed



## Standard #3 Doctrine & Dogma

Illustrate a basic understanding of doctrine and dogma in light of the Creed.

### Performance Indicators

- ~Recite the Nicene Creed and identify the core elements of Christian faith contained within it.
- ~Describe the Paschal Mystery as Jesus' dying, rising and sending of the Spirit to live forever with God's people.
- ~Relate the meaning of the Feast of the Ascension.
- ~Discuss how Catholics honor Mary as the Mother of God.

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### Some Sample Activities



As a core element of the Creed, read an account of the Passion together, assigning different people to read the part of Jesus, the crowds and the narrator.



Send a letter home to parents to encourage them to attend Holy Week services with their families, as a means of gaining a deeper understanding of the Paschal Mystery.



Discuss the rhythm of death and life in nature and in everyday life experiences. Relate this to the Paschal Mystery.



Provide the young people with a copy of the Nicene Creed. Ask them to read passages referring to the Paschal Mystery, Pentecost and Ascension.



Design a banner during Lent that will show symbols for the Death, Resurrection, Ascension of Jesus, and Pentecost. Ask the pastor to display the banner in a prominent place during the Easter Season.

**Other activities I found useful...**



## Standard #4 Trinity

Recognize the Trinity as God.

### Performance Indicators

- ~Know the meaning of the term Holy Trinity.
- ~Discuss how God comes into our world to save us.
- ~Identify ways in which Jesus acted as both human and divine.
- ~Recognize Pentecost as a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.
- ~Recall that the Holy Spirit is always present and active in the Church.
- ~Study the infancy narratives in the New Testament.

**Assessment :** How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

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### Some Sample Activities



Engage the young people in a discussion that identify ways in which Jesus acted as both human and divine.



Challenge the group to find Scripture references which illustrate the mission of Father as Creator, Son as Savior and Spirit as Sanctifier.



Discuss the meaning of the term "Holy Trinity." Explain the need for faith in the acceptance of the Trinity as the central mystery of our faith.



Ask the group to recall what they have been taught about the dignity of each person made in the image and likeness of God and how each person shares in God's life.



Talk together about Jesus as the sacrament, i.e. his humanity as the visible sign of his divinity.



Invite the young people to give examples of concepts in science, math and technology that we may not fully understand, yet are accepted on the word of another. Relate this to our faith in the Holy Trinity.

Other activities I found useful...



### Standard #5 Church

Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

#### Performance Indicators

~Discuss the Church as the People of God and the Bride of Christ.

~Explore the ministries of word, worship, community building and service as the continuation of Jesus' mission and ministry.

~Recognize that elements of Catholic faith are rooted in Jewish tradition.

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#### Some Sample Activities



Ask the group to identify how the mission of Jesus is carried out by various parish ministries, e.g. lectors, Legion of Mary, St. Vincent de Paul, priests, pastoral associates, deacons, religious, etc.



Invite the young people to brainstorm for answers to the question, "What is the Church?".



Explain why "People of God" and "Bride of Christ" are useful descriptions of the Church.



Explore the ministries of Word, worship, community building and service. Challenge the young people to identify ways they can use their gifts to contribute to parish life and ministry.

Other activities I found useful...



**Standard #6 Community**

Demonstrate an appreciation for faith community as the primary way we come to know God.

**Performance Indicators**

- ~Give examples of parishioners called to liturgical ministries.
- ~Discuss the responsibility of Catholics to financially support Church ministries.
- ~Recognize the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) as a faith formation process in which new members are welcomed into the Church.
- ~Relate how the parish faith community develops and supports a person's knowledge of God.

**Assessment :** How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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**Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?**

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**Some Sample Activities**



Use the RCIA process to describe the communal nature of faith, as well as how we grow in faith as individuals.



Identify areas of service in the parish (and/or in the civic community) to which young people can contribute their time and talent. Encourage them to get involved.



Engage the group in a discussion concerning the positive aspects of belonging to a faith community.



Discuss the relationship between financial support of the Church and the parish's ability to minister to the people.

**Other activities I found useful...**



### Standard #7 Creation

Exercise responsible stewardship for the gift of Creation.

#### Performance Indicators

- ~Explore ways that God has asked us to care for the world.
- ~Discuss stewardship as it relates to the distribution and use of resources.
- ~Identify practical way of exercising responsible stewardship.

**Assessment :** How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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#### Some Sample Activities



Invite the young people to create a list of ways in which they can experience respect and care for the gifts of Creation.



Engage the group in a discussion of environmental issues as they are treated in their school courses or family discussions.



Ask the group to examine a recent newspaper issue and note articles on environmental issues. Talk about them.



Relate concern for environmental issues to faith which recognizes Creation as a gift from God which we are called to use wisely.

Other activities I found useful...

# Sacraments



## Standard #8 Sacraments

Demonstrate the importance of sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.

### Performance Indicators

- ~Describe how the sacraments signify and make present God's grace.
- ~Discuss how God is present in the celebration of the Eucharist, e.g. the Word, the community, the priest, the Body and Blood of Jesus.
- ~Recognize the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation as a celebration of God's forgiveness.
- ~Compare and contrast the celebration of the Eucharist to the Last Supper.
- ~Explain how the Eucharist is a sacrifice.

**Assessment :** How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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**Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?**

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### Some Sample Activities



Have a group discussion about how God is present in the celebration of the Eucharist.



Encourage the young people to participate in the parish Penance/Reconciliation Services to celebrate God's forgiveness.



Describe to the young people how the sacraments signify, and make present, God's grace.



Ask the group to compare the celebration of Eucharist to the Last Supper, noting the sacrificial nature of both.



Review the steps necessary for the reception of the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation.

Other activities I found useful...



### Standard #9 Discipleship

Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.

#### Performance Indicators

- ~Identify diverse Christian vocations that reflect the baptismal call to discipleship.
- ~Identify the uniqueness of the ministerial priesthood.
- ~Examine the role of Consecrated Life in the Church.
- ~Discuss the role of the laity in the Church.

**Assessment :** How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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**Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?**

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#### Some Sample Activities



Invite a representative from each state of life to participate in a panel presentation about their respective vocation and its relationship to discipleship.



Ask the young people to identify each of the four "states" of life as a means to follow the baptismal call to holiness and discipleship.



Reflect together how young people can bring the Good News to those they meet each day.



As a group, compose a prayer that a young person could recite as he or she discerns God's call to a particular vocation.

Other activities I found useful...



### Standard #10 Human Dignity

Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.

#### Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize life as sacred from conception to natural death.
- ~Analyze how discrimination and prejudice lead to injustice.
- ~Explore diverse cultural expressions that enrich our Church.
- ~Describe the Respect Life activities of the local parish.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

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#### Some Sample Activities



Brainstorm current threats and obstacles to the sacredness/dignity of all human life.



Engage the group in a discussion about the ways teenagers often demonstrate a lack of respect for their own lives and the lives of their peers. How does this lead to injustice?



Encourage young people to show self-respect. Ask them to identify healthy and holy habits of living which they practice to honor the sacredness of life.



Expose young people to national issues which indicate a lack of respect for human life, such as euthanasia, abortion, death penalty, violence, adult stem cell research, etc. Ask them how the local parish is responding to the national issues.



Have the parish Respect Life Coordinator visit and talk with the young people about Church teachings which recognize the sacredness of life from conception to natural death.

Other activities I found useful...



### Standard #11 Human Interaction / Sexuality

Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

#### Performance Indicators

- ~Discuss Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and our neighbor as ourselves.
- ~Show how a life of service to others reflects Christ's teachings.
- ~Recognize the need to develop communication skills as a means to build healthy friendships and to avoid negative peer pressure.
- ~Discuss sexuality as integral to personal identity.
- ~Recognize that all are called to a chaste life, according to their state of life.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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#### Some Sample Activities



Lead a discussion about the challenges contemporary American culture presents to living Jesus' commandment to love God, neighbor and self.



Compose a list of good communication skills and discuss why each skill is necessary to the development of healthy friendships.



Choose a Gospel figure (e.g. Peter, Judas, Martha, Thomas, Mary Magdalene, etc.) and relate his/her interaction with Jesus in contemporary terms, illustrating how we might follow these example in our lives.



Discuss the call to live a chaste life according to the responsibilities of the single, married, consecrated life and ordained ministry.

Other activities I found useful...



## Standard #12 Social Justice

Know, critique and apply social justice principles to personal and societal situations.

### Performance Indicators

- ~Show how the Scriptures address justice, peace, equality and stewardship.
- ~Discuss the beatitudes and their relationship to Christian conversion.
- ~Explore ways that a young Christian can respond to the challenge of world hunger, poverty, war/peace, inequality, discrimination and environmental issues.

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### Some Sample Activities



Examine recent editions of the local newspaper to find examples of people living the beatitudes.



Share how the healing touch of Jesus is present in our world and in our communities through our example.



Prepare a list of social problems which are prevalent in the local area (e.g. poverty, migrant workers, environmental issues, etc.). Discuss how a young Catholic should respond to these social problems.



In a group discussion, identify individuals and or groups that promote social change within the local community.

Other activities I found useful...



### **Standard #13 Community Service**

Engage in service to the community (e.g. family, parish, local, National and global) in response to the Gospel call.

#### **Performance Indicators**

- ~Identify events which are examples of carrying the cross and living a life of service.
- ~Discuss service as an essential element of discipleship.
- ~Recognize service as action rooted in and flowing from prayer.

**Assessment :** How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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#### **Some Sample Activities**



Identify with the group incidents from Jesus' life which exemplify his service on behalf of another person or group.



Lead a discussion with the group that encourages each participant to share a service project in which they are participating or would like to participate. Each should tell why this service is essential to discipleship.



Write a paragraph or draw pictures that show how a young person performs the Spiritual Works of Mercy as an essential element of discipleship.



Write a paragraph or draw pictures that show how a young person performs the Corporal Works of Mercy as a means of living a life of service.

**Other activities I found useful...**



### Standard #14 Moral Conscience

Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.

#### Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize that the foundation of Catholic morality is based on
- ~Christ's humanity and identify the moral values in his teachings.
- ~Recognize that the basis of moral decision-making within the
  - ~Catholic Church is conscience, sin and reconciliation.
  - ~Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.
- ~Recognize that as we grow in faith, we build a strong and realistic concept of self, enabling us to demonstrate the call to be faithful to God's love.
- ~Examine Christ's invitation to deny self and take up the cross.
  - ~Name the theological and cardinal virtues.

**Assessment :** How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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#### Some Sample Activities



Lead the group in a "scripture search" for incidents from Christ's life that illustrate his humanity and moral values in his teaching.



Role play a contemporary situation involving a moral dilemma and its Christian resolution. Illustrate how the decision was informed by Church teaching.



Discuss forms of penance and self-denial that can address social, economic or moral concerns. Through discussion, assist the group in recognizing the connection between personal responsibility and the consequences of their decisions.



Prepare a list of parish activities and programs and/or individuals that exemplify Christian moral values as found in the teachings of Jesus.

Other activities I found useful...

# Prayer



**Standard #15 Catholic Tradition of Prayer**  
Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer.

## Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize the importance of personal prayer in the development of a relationship with God.
- ~Identify prayer as a means of discerning God's Call and responding generously to it.
- ~Plan a Rite of Reconciliation.

**Assessment :** How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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### Some Sample Activities



Share a favorite prayer, or compose one, for discerning God's Call (vocation).



Write a prayer together asking God's guidance in daily life as a way of deepening our relationship with God.



Invite the young people to take turns leading prayer as an indication of its importance in developing a relationship with God.



Assist the group in preparing a Penance/Reconciliation Service and participating in the service.

**Other activities I found useful...**