

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM CONCEPTS

# Grade 7

By the end of Grade 7, students will have an age-appropriate understanding of the concepts in each of the following areas:

Area #1: ***The Profession of Faith*** (CCC #26-1065)

1. Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed himself and given himself to humanity (CCC# 50)
2. God has revealed his plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all humanity. This plan has been fully revealed by God's sending his Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit (CCC# 50)
3. Catholics believe the following
  - i. Jesus of Nazareth was born a Jew during the time of King Herod the Great and the emperor Caesar Augustus
  - ii. Was the son of a daughter of Jerusalem, the Blessed Mary and was a carpenter by trade
  - iii. He died crucified by the procurator Pontius Pilate during the reign of the emperor Tiberius
  - iv. He is the eternal Son of God made man (CCC# 432)
4. The name "Jesus" means "God saves." It reflects the fact that through his Incarnation he is united to all humanity; at the same time it reflects his divinity (CCC# 430-435)
5. The word "Christ" comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew "Messiah," which means "anointed." This refers to his divine mission (of priest, prophet and king) to establish God's kingdom on earth, which was fully revealed through his death and resurrection (CCC# 436-440)
6. Unlike those who were referred to as "sons of God" in the Old Testament, when Jesus is referred to as the "Son of God" it is in reference to his divine oneness in being with God the Father and Holy Spirit (CCC# 441-445)
7. The term "Lord" is used by Christians in reference to God the Father and Jesus, his Son, as a means emphasizing their supreme authority over creation and every living thing (CCC# 446-451)
8. Jesus, as "God's Word made Flesh" was sent so that humanity may know God's love and serve as our model of holiness (CCC# 457-458)
9. Belief in the Incarnation of the Son of God is the distinctive sign of Christian faith. It means that Jesus, the divine Son of God, is became truly man while remaining truly God (CCC# 463)

10. Mary is the “Immaculate Conception.” To become the mother of the Savior, Mary, from her conception, was full of grace and free of original sin and every personal sin her whole lifetime (CCC# 490-493)
11. Since Mary is mother to Jesus, the Son of God incarnate, she is rightly called the “Mother of God” (CCC# 495)
12. Jesus was conceived in Mary’s womb solely through the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary’s virginal conception of Jesus reflects the truth that Jesus is both fully God and fully human. Her perpetual virginity is the expression of her total commitment to God’s saving plan and to her role as our spiritual mother (CCC# 496-507)
13. Students should be able to identify and understand the meaning of the following events of the Life of Christ:
  - i. The infancy narratives
  - ii. Jesus early life
  - iii. His baptism and temptations in the desert
  - iv. The call of the apostles and disciples
  - v. His proclamation of the Kingdom of God
  - vi. His teachings and sayings about the Kingdom of God
  - vii. The miracles of Jesus as signs of the Kingdom
  - viii. Jesus’ Transfiguration
  - ix. The Messianic entry into Jerusalem
  - x. His Last Supper, Arrest, and Trial
  - xi. The crucifixion
  - xii. His Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven
  - xiii. The sending of the Holy Spirit
14. Jesus’ resurrection is the fulfillment of God’s promises in the Old Testament, confirms his divinity, liberates us from sin and opens the way for us to eternal life after death (CCC# 653-655)
15. Jesus will return in glory at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. This judgment will reflect each of our treatment of the “least” of Jesus’ and our brethren (CCC# 678)

Area #2:     ***The Celebration of the Christian Mystery*** (CCC #1066-1690)

1. The Risen Christ now acts through the sacraments he instituted in order to give us his grace (CCC# 1084)
2. Christ’s redemptive suffering, death and resurrection are celebrated and experienced by the faithful in every celebration of the sacraments (CCC# 1085)
3. Christ entrusted his apostles with his work of bringing people to holiness, their successors (the bishops), through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, continue this mission in every age (CCC# 1086-1087)
4. Christ is always present in the Church, especially in the Eucharist (CCC# 1088)

5. Jesus gave new meaning to the Passover bread and wine at his Last Supper when he turned them into his body and blood (CCC# 1334, 1339)
6. Jesus gave the Jewish Passover new meaning in his Last Supper: he anticipated his passing over from earthly life to resurrected life with God the Father and anticipated the final Passover of the Church in the glory of God's Kingdom at the end of time (CCC# 1340)
7. Sunday is the preeminent day for the liturgical assembly to listen to the Word of God and take part in the Eucharist, thus calling to mind the Passion, Resurrection, and glory of the Lord (CCC# 1167)

Area #3: ***Life in Christ*** (CCC #1691-2550)

1. Human persons are endowed with immortal and spiritual souls; they are made in God's image and likeness and find their perfection in seeking and loving what is true and good (CCC# 1702-1705)
2. Enticed by the Evil One the first parents abused their freedom at the beginning of human history. Human beings still desire the good, but their nature bears the wound of original sin; they are inclined to evil and subject to error (CCC# 1707)
3. By his Passion, Christ delivered us from Satan and from sin. He won for us new life in the Holy Spirit and his grace restores what sin had damaged in us (CCC# 1708)
4. The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching (CCC# 1716-1717)
5. The Beatitudes teach us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or any human achievement—however beneficial it may be (such as science, technology, or art)—but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love (CCC# 1723)
6. The Sermon on the Mount describes for us the paths that lead to the Kingdom of Heaven (CCC# 1724)
7. The Law of Moses is a preparation for the Gospel in that it shows us what we must do (and must not do). By itself, it cannot save us from sin, but it does prepare persons for conversion to and faith in Christ (CCC# 1963-1964)
8. The New Law, or the Law of the Gospel is called the "Law of Love" because, through the grace of Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the believer does what is good out of love and not fear (CCC# 1972)
9. The Pope and the bishops have been entrusted by Christ to teach with authority on matters of faith and morals (CCC# 2030-2040)
10. The moral life is a response to God's love. Obeying God's commandments, especially Jesus' Great Commandment, are the principal ways we show love to God and to others (CCC# 2062-2067)

Area #4: ***Christian Prayer*** (CCC #2558-2856)

1. Jesus, God's only Son, prayed with a human heart. He learned how to pray from his parents, learned to pray in the words and rhythms of Jewish prayers of his people (CCC# 2599)
2. Because of his oneness with the Father, Jesus' prayers had special meaning and occurred before the decisive moments of his Public Ministry (CCC# 2599)
3. Jesus prayed in a variety of ways: alone and with others, silently and aloud, in synagogues and the Temple, in private homes and outdoors. He also said prayers of praise, thanksgiving, lamentation, and petition (CCC# 2601-2604)
4. The prayers of Jesus on the Cross, especially his "last words," teach us about faith and trust in God (CCC# 2605-2606)
5. We are encouraged to pray "in Jesus' name" and with the confidence that he hears our prayers (CCC# 2614-2616)
6. Mary's prayers, her trust in God and her willingness to do God's will, serve as a model for Christians (CCC# 2617-2619)
7. The Lord's Prayer (the "Our Father") is the summary of the whole gospel and serves as the central prayer of the Church (CCC# 2761, 2776)
8. As part of their Catholic education, Grade 7 students should be instructed in the following spiritual treasures of the Catholic faith.
  - i. The Great Commandments: Love of God and love of neighbor (CCC# 2055)
  - ii. The Sermon on the Mount, especially the Beatitudes (CCC# 1716-1717)
  - iii. The Our Father
  - iv. The Magnificat
  - v. Students will compose prayers of praise, thanksgiving, remorse, and petition
  - vi. Celebrations of the Liturgical Year will continue in class and with the parish community. These should include Marian feasts/holy days and other saints' feast