



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Elementary Curriculum

Religion PK-8th Grade

PRE-K	KINDERGARTEN
<p>Creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God made me• God made the world• Everything God made is good. <p>Doctrine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God is always with us• Identifies Jesus, Mary, and Joseph• We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas and new life on Easter <p>Scripture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bible is a special book about God• The Bible tells us stories about creation, our loving God, and the birth of Jesus <p>Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baptism makes us part of God's family <p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attempt to make the Sign of the Cross• Repeat a simple age-appropriate prayer	<p>Creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God made the world and all that is in it• Everything God made is good• God made people to be like Him• God made people to love Him and others• God is good and we must serve Him first• Love one another as God loves us• God made the angels and gave them special jobs <p>Doctrine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus is both God and man• Jesus died and rose to new life• Heaven is being happy with God forever• Special friends of Jesus are called Apostles <p>Scripture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bible is God's Word• The Bible tells us stories as lessons to help us live as Jesus did• The Bible teaches us about God's love <p>Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through Baptism we become part of God's family, the Church• When we celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist, Jesus is present• The tabernacle is where the Blessed Sacrament is kept <p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prayer is talking to God• Should recite<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Sign of the Cross○ Grace Before and After Meals○ The Hail Mary○ Guardian Angel Prayer
FIRST GRADE	



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Creation

- God created the world
- God created us with a body and soul to know Him, love Him, and serve Him
- God created everything from nothing
- God's creation includes the visible (nature, people, etc.) and the invisible (angels, etc.)

Doctrine

- God is one God and Three Divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- Jesus is fully God and fully human
- Jesus loves us and desires our love
- The Holy Spirit is alive in us and in the Church
- Heaven is being happy with God forever

Scripture

- The Bible is the written Word of God
- The Bible teaches us the truth about God and how we should live
- Jesus told stories to teach us about God's love
- The Bible contains stories about God and God's love for us

Sacraments

- Sacraments are signs of God's love
- Baptism welcome us into the family of the Church
- In the Eucharist, Jesus gives Himself to us

Prayer

- Should recite
 - The Sign of the Cross
 - Grace Before and After Meals
 - The Hail Mary
 - Guardian Angel Prayer
 - The Our Father
 - Introduction to the Act of Contrition
 - Introduction to the Rosary
- Prayer is listening and talking to God
- Prayers from Kindergarten and introduction to the Rosary and the Act of Contrition

Saints

- Saints are God's Holy People who show us how to live
 - Mary, the Mother of God is the greatest saint
 - Patron Saint of the Church or School
 - St. Francis
 - St. Nicholas
 - St. Patrick
 - St. Joseph
 - St. Ann and Joachim
 - Basic understanding of the saint's story



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SECOND GRADE

Scripture

- The Bible is God's word
- The Bible is made up of two sections: The Old Testament and the New Testament
- Reading from the Mass come from both the Old and New Testaments
- The four writers of the Gospel are Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

Doctrine

- The Holy Trinity is the three persons in one God
- God the Father created us.
- Jesus is God's Greatest Gift and His Beloved Son
- Jesus is both God and Man
- Jesus died and rose to new life
- The Eucharist is the memorial of the sacrifice of Jesus
- Participate actively in Mass: when to sit, stand, and kneel
- At Mass, the bread and wine truly change into the Body and Blood of Jesus
- We join the angels and saints in heaven when we go to Mass
- The Holy Spirit helps guide us to make the right choices and make the right decisions
- The Ten Commandments show us ways to love and live with others

Sacraments

- Sacraments are signs that come from Jesus and give grace
- There are Seven sacraments
- Baptism is the first Sacrament received and makes us part of God's family
- When we choose to do wrong, we sin against God
- Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Penance to forgive us our sins and to give us the grace to do good and avoid sin

Prayer

- Jesus taught us how to pray
- Act of Contrition
- Apostle's Creed
- The Holy Rosary
- Communal Prayer
- Personal Prayer

Holy Eucharist

- Jesus gives us everything we need
- Identify ways to grow closer to Jesus
- Appreciate that Jesus said and did something special at the Last Supper
- Be thankful for Jesus in the Eucharist
- Remember that the Mass is a meal and a sacrifice
- Explain the meaning of offering of the gifts of bread and wine in the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Express our belief that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist
- Transubstantiation is when bread and wine become Jesus

Reconciliation

- God reveals the basic rules about what is right and what is wrong through the Ten Commandments
- Conscience and Free will is God's gift
- Sin is a free choice to do wrong
- God is forgiving and merciful
- Act of Contrition
- Penance
- Mortal and venial sin
- When we are truly sorry for our sins, God forgives us



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THIRD GRADE

The Mass

- Understand the importance of sacred objects and actions in the Church
- Participate in school Mass with a better understanding of the parts of the Mass
- The Mass is a sacred banquet in which we may receive the Body and Blood of Christ
- Introduction to Liturgical Seasons and colors
- Jesus celebrated the first Mass at the Last Supper

Doctrine

- Distinguish between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- Define and retell the story of creation
- Explain why we are made in the image and likeness of God
- Identify Jesus as Messiah, Savior, Chosen One
- Understand the Incarnation (divine and human nature) of Jesus
- Understand that the Holy Spirit is our helper and guide
- Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance when making choices
- Jesus founded the Catholic Church
- That we are members of the universal Church, the diocese, and our own parish. Students should know the names of the Pope, their own diocesan bishop, and the pastor of their parish.

Holy Days of Obligation

- The Solemnity of All Saints' Day
- The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- The Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- The Solemnity of the Ascension
- The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sacraments

- Jesus is the Bread of Life
- We become one with Jesus when we receive Holy Communion
- Describe the Paschal Mystery
- It is through the sacraments that we receive grace
- Introduce the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and know their significance
- Introduce the Sacraments of Healing and know their significance
- Introduce the Sacraments of Service and know their significance
- A vocation is an invitation to serve others as a priest, religious, single, or married person
- Explore different vocations

Liturgical Year

- Advent
- Christmas
- Ordinary Time
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Triduum

Prayer

- Understand that the Mass is our greatest prayer
- Discuss types of prayer: (adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise)
- Know how to pray a novena
- Stations of the Cross are prayed during Lent and show the final hours of Jesus' earthly life
- Pray for both the living and the dead.
- Plan and participate in a Eucharistic Celebration
- Participate in a Penance service with the opportunity for individual Reconciliation
- Psalms were prayed by Jesus and we sing them at Mass



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FOURTH GRADE

Scripture

- The Bible is made up of two sections: the Old Testament (before Jesus) and the New Testament (from the time of Jesus)
- Key Old Testament stories such as creation, Noah, Moses
- Know the four writers of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- The Ten Commandments were given to us by God as a guide for living

Doctrine

- That there is one God. In the one God are three Divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This mystery is called the Holy Trinity
- That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us
- That God the Holy Spirit was sent by God the Father and God the Son to dwell within us and to help us always to choose what is good and to avoid what is evil
- That temptation is a struggle for everyone, but God's grace is always present to help us to choose good
- That Mary is the Immaculate Conception. This means that she was created without original sin
- That Mary never sinned throughout her life

Sacraments

- Holy Eucharist is the greatest gift we can receive
- To receive Holy Communion, one must be in the state of grace.
- During the Penitential Rite (at the beginning of the Mass) we humbly acknowledge our sinfulness and ask God for mercy
- The Liturgy is also made up of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Morality

- Conscience is the ability to determine whether an action is right or wrong
- Explain that the teachings of Jesus and the Church are necessary to help them in moral decisions and to develop an informed conscience.
- Describe venial sin as a personal choice to hurt ourselves or others and God; but not completely turning away from God
- Describe mortal sin as a personal choice to completely turn away from God.
- Tell that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is recommended for those in venial sin and necessary for those in mortal sin.

Prayer

- Recite the Apostles' Creed
- The Mass responses
- Act of Contrition - we say it to express to God our sorrow for sin
- Pray five decades of the Rosary
- Plan and participate in a Eucharistic Celebration
- Participate in a Penance service with the opportunity for individual Reconciliation
- Name the basic categories of prayer (adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise),



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FIFTH GRADE

Scripture

- All Scripture is inspired by God
- The Bible teaches us who God is and who we are in relation to Him
- At every Mass we hear readings from the Bible (Sacred Scripture) and should listen attentively
- Jesus accepted His mission as Messiah at His baptism and was faithful to it

Doctrine

- There is one God. In the one God are three divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of the three Persons is fully God. This mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity
- That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us
- That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son, to dwell within us and help us always to choose what is good and avoid what is evil
- The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith because it is the mystery of God in Himself

Morality

- God made us to know, love, and serve Him and so to enter heaven
- Sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law
- Venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do
- Three conditions for a mortal sin: the sin must be serious, you must know the sin is serious, you must freely choose it anyway
- When a person receives absolution in the Sacrament of Penance, he recovers sanctifying grace if he / she had lost it through mortal sin.

Sacraments

- Describe a Sacrament as the celebration of the presence and action of God in sign and ritual
- Name the Church's seven Sacraments
- Jesus instituted and entrusted to the Church all the sacraments
- The Holy Eucharist, which is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine, is at the center of the Catholic Faith
- That anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance before he/she receives communion

Prayer

- The Mass is our greatest prayer. We need to participate at Mass every Sunday and on all Holy Days of Obligation
- There are many styles of prayer with in our tradition
- Name the basic categories of prayer (adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise), and define, and give examples of each
- Nightly examination of conscience followed by the Act of Contrition
- Participate in different kinds of prayers and devotions, e.g. prayers to saints, Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary, etc.

Liturgical Year

- Advent
- Christmas
- Ordinary Time
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Triduum
- And colors associated with each
- Names, dates and meaning of the Holy Days of Obligation

SIXTH GRADE



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Scripture

- God guided the human authors of Scripture to write those truths He wanted to teach
- God reveals himself and his plan of salvation through Scripture
- Sacred Scripture teaches us who God is and who we are in relation to Him
- The Old Testament helps us to understand Jesus and his promises as well as to understand that our Christian roots are found in Judaism
- God rescued the Hebrews from slavery and sent his Son to save all people
- Abraham made a covenant of faith with God and that covenant was passed on through Jacob
- A covenant is a sacred agreement God makes with us and to which he is always faithful. The first covenant was made with our first parents, Adam and Eve
- Old Testament Scripture passages speak of the Messiah who would save the Israelites. The Messiah who is Jesus
- In Old Testament times, God chose leaders like Saul and David, and Solomon who were anointed kings
- Identify some of the principal Old Testament prophets: Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel

Doctrine

- God sent his Son Jesus as our Savior because of His great love for us
- Jesus is God in the Flesh. We call this mystery of God in the Flesh the Incarnation
- The Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed are summary statements of our central beliefs as Christians
- Through the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic marks, the Church proclaim the Kingdom of God and His will to make all people holy.

Morality

- We are made in God's image and likeness, with intellect and will (two powers of the soul) and that God wants us (does not force them) to live in communion with Him
- Sanctifying grace is how we share in God's life and it is what makes us holy
- Habits of selfishness and moral weakness lead to sin
- That we are to be chaste and pure in thoughts, words, and actions, both with self and with others
- Participate in safe and age-appropriate community service activities, supporting life issues, and care for the environment

Sacraments

- A sacrament is an outward sign, instituted by Christ and entrusted by Him to His Church to give grace
- The names of the seven sacraments and which of them are sacraments of initiation, healing, and service / vocation
- The Eucharist, which is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus, nourishes and strengthens us to follow Him
- That Jesus instituted the Eucharist on Holy Thursday, the night when he was betrayed, as he celebrated the Last Supper with his apostles
- Distinguish between sacraments and sacramentals

Prayer

- The Mass is our greatest prayer and that we need to participate at Mass every Sunday and on all Holy Days of Obligation
- To know all Mass parts and prayer responses so as to participate in Mass more fully
- The 20 Mysteries of the Rosary. (5 Joyful, 5 Luminous, 5 Sorrowful, and 5 Glorious)
- The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- How to participate in different kinds of prayers and devotions, e.g. prayers to saints, Stations of the Cross, Rosary, etc



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Scripture

- Sacred Scripture teaches without error God's saving truth
- The Gospels of Sts. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are similar, and therefore, called the Synoptic Gospels while the Gospel of St. John has a different, more reflective style and contains some additional stories
- Symbols and audience for the Gospel writers
- The Gospels are different portraits of Jesus that are all true. Even though each Gospel writer chose different stories to emphasize, all the Gospels have the same message: Jesus is the Messiah, Son of God, who revealed the Father's love for us, saved us, and opened Heaven to us
- Jesus was Jewish and lived in first-century Palestine during the Roman occupation
- Name the apostles, their symbols and martyrdom
- Discover how Jesus' role in salvation history applies to our everyday lives
- Conversion story of Saul to Paul

Doctrine

- The Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity are distinct, but not separate
- Each of the three Persons of the Trinity is equal, and that each of them always was, is now, and always will be God
- The Incarnation is the mystery of God the Son in the Flesh. This is Jesus who always was, is now, and always will be God and who, from the moment of His conception, became man and always will be man
- The Paschal Mystery is the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus
- Through Jesus, we find our way to the Father
- The Eucharist nourishes us with the Body and blood of Jesus
- Jesus rose from the dead, ascended to the Father, and is still with us

Morality

- Recite the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and will be able to identify how they are examples of putting faith into action
- The Holy Eucharist is the source of living the Christian life and commits us to the poor
- Analyze the role of the Catholic Social Teaching in the mission of the Church
- Participate in service projects
- Evangelization is to tell others the Good News of Jesus
- Ecumenism refers to the communication between different Christian religious groups

Sacraments

- The sacraments are sacred mysteries and that Jesus continues to care for us through the sacraments
- Name of the sacraments of initiation, healing, and service
- The Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine, and is at the center of our Catholic faith and worship
- To receive Holy Communion, one must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance before he/she receives communion
- In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the three degrees of ordination are: deacon, priest, and bishop

Prayer

- Demonstrate, understand, use, and identify traditional prayer forms in the Catholic tradition
- Use a variety of prayer sources (Scripture, Liturgy, Music, Psalms)
- Have an opportunity to experience the various kinds of prayer (Liturgical, Devotional, Meditation, Scripture)
- Jesus is our model for prayer
- Pray for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death



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EIGHTH GRADE

Scripture

- Catholic beliefs and practices are rooted in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition
- Understand how the Bible came to be written from the oral tradition to the canon of Scripture.
- Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in the writing and preaching of Sacred Scripture
- Describe how Catholics read the Bible within the living Tradition of the Church.
- Jesus instituted the Catholic Church and He entrusted to her the authority to teach, govern, and sanctify in His name
- Jesus gave the responsibility for teaching, governing, and sanctifying in His name to Peter and the apostles and their successors
- The Acts of the Apostles describes the foundation of the Catholic Church and the struggles of these first Christians

Doctrine

- Jesus instituted the Catholic Church and He entrusted to her the authority to teach, govern, and sanctify in His name.
- The official doctrinal teachings of the Catholic Church cannot be in error because Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to lead the Church into all truth and promised to be with His Church until the end of time.
- The Church is made up of clergy, laity, and those in consecrated life
- God desires that all human beings go to Heaven and that He gives all human beings sufficient grace to go to Heaven
- That Heaven is eternal life with God; communion of life, and love with the Trinity, and with all the blessed
- God is to be loved above everyone and everything, and God's name honored
- Ecumenical Councils and results of each

Morality

- Everyone is called to holiness
- Venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but mortal sins do
- We have a responsibility to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy
- Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive special sacramental grace to give witness to Christ in our daily lives
- Sex is to be respected and used only when it is a sign of the permanent commitment of marriage

Sacraments

- Jesus instituted the Eucharist, which is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ and which is the source and summit of Catholic life, worship, and unity
- The Mass is a sacred banquet that culminates in Holy Communion
- During the celebration of the Mass, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of Jesus' words by the priest, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ
- The importance and the need for frequent reception of the sacrament of Penance
- Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive special sacramental grace to give witness to Christ in our daily lives

Prayer

- Names of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how prayer helps us better use the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to them in Baptism and increased in Confirmation
- Examine our relationship with God through personal prayer
- Experience various traditions of Catholic prayer forms such as rosary, benediction, contemplative prayer, and meditation in order to appreciate the traditions of the Church
- We deepen our relationship with God through prayer, especially the Eucharistic Liturgy