

Eighth Grade

Diocese of Madison Catechetical Standards



Introduction	2
Profile of a 8th Grade Child	
Characteristics	3
Moral Developmental Needs	3
Catechetical Implications	4
Story of Salvation History	5
Standards and Benchmarks	
Creed	7
Sacraments	11
Morality	13
Prayer	16
Resources	
Prayers to Learn	17
Vocations	18
Prayers	19

Introduction

Thank you for answering the call of God to be a teacher of the Faith, which involves leading children closer to Christ! Catechesis is the art of teaching the Faith in order to facilitate a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. The teaching should lead to understanding who Christ is in light of God’s word (what He has revealed to us in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition) in order to be changed through His grace and become more and more like Him. Transformed by the working of grace, “*the Christian thus sets himself to follow Christ and learns more and more within the Church to think like Him, to judge like Him, to act in conformity with His commandments, and to hope as He invites us to*” (*On Catechesis in Our Time*, Bl. John Paul II, 20. Hereafter CT). “*The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity*” (CT, 5).

How are catechists to teach in a way that leads children and young people into communion with Jesus Christ?

1. Holiness of life is essential in order for the catechist’s teaching to bring others into intimacy with Jesus Christ. Catechists must first and foremost be witnesses. “*Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses*” (Pope Paul VI, EN, 41). Thus, a parish or school catechist must first be a practicing Catholic, that is, “*a Catholic in good standing who participates fully in the worship and life of the Church, and who understands and accepts the teachings of the Church and moral demands of the Gospel, as articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church*” (*Standards For Educators in Catholic Parishes and Schools*, Wisconsin Catholic Conference, 2008, 3). They must also be “*prepared for their apostolate by appropriate catechetical training (Diocesan Certification) and their spiritual life should be characterized by a “love of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and of Christ’s Church, our Holy Father, and God’s holy people,” a personal prayer life, missionary zeal, and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary (See The National Directory for Catechesis, pp. 228-229, 231).*
2. An overview of Salvation History is to be presented at the beginning of each grade. Each and every teaching of the Faith that follows should be presented in light of this Story of God’s Plan for us (*The General Directory for Catechesis*, 128. Hereafter, GDC). This gives students the context for all the content of our catechesis.
3. The doctrinal content of our standards and thus our overall catechesis is found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which is the “*sure norm for teaching the Faith*” (GDC, 121). All Catholic School administrators, teachers, DRE’s, CRE’s, catechists and Youth Ministers should regularly utilize the *Catechism* when teaching the Faith (GDC, 121).
4. The generous utilization of Sacred Scripture should have a pre-eminent position in all of our catechesis. The students need to know that the teachings of the Church flow from Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition which together constitute the “*supreme rule of faith*” (*Dei Verbum*, 21). When the word of God is spoken, grace is given, and students authentically encounter Jesus Christ. While forming our children in the Catholic faith is an honor and a privilege, we must also acknowledge that this task cannot be accomplished solely through the dedicated efforts of parish priests, catechists, and Catholic school teachers, but resides most importantly in the amount of time and effort parents devote to learning and practicing the faith at home.

Catechetical standards and benchmarks identify the expectations for the formation of Catholic youth and include specific grade level competencies that every youth should know and be able to demonstrate. They are intended to strengthen the partnership between the primary educators of children—the parents—and the supporting educators of children—Catholic parish and school personnel. These standards and benchmarks will assist parents and catechists to work together toward these learning competencies and the creative developing of different curriculum to ensure successful catechesis and thus, most naturally, a deeper *communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ* the Savior of the World.

8th Grade

Characteristics of a 8th grade Child

- ◇ The 13th year of life is one of complex transition involving body, mind and personality. The transition comes sometimes very unexpectedly. Changes in body build and body chemistry affect posture, coordination, appearance, voice and attitude. Body changes intensify awareness of becoming more adult-like. Moods can fluctuate between despair and optimistic self-confidence all the way to arrogance at times.
- ◇ They are often the oldest children in the school to which they belong
- ◇ They are not always open and communicative. Their lack of communication at times may appear to be apathetic or uninterested (especially when a topic or subject does not stir their interests)
- ◇ The young person is beset by interpersonal demands from family, peers, and teachers. Home, school, and peers often conflict and aggravate confusion.
- ◇ Yet, in the midst of pressures, adolescents usually preserve self-identity and achieve new measures of independence. They meet struggles with heightened awareness of themselves and the world in which they live.
- ◇ At 13, they are in a momentous transition. They long for and need security, sympathetic understanding, attention and supportive love in spite of their inability to recognize the need and respond to it appropriately.
- ◇ Express a desire for isolation from family
- ◇ Tend to be withdrawn, sensitive and uncommunicative
- ◇ Worry about body, physical features and personality
- ◇ 8th graders continue to seek approval from adults and peers and are eager to have friends. They prefer 1 or 2 close friends to large groups (just a few years earlier). They tend to form cliques and identify strongly with peer groups and interests.
- ◇ The all encompassing, all-important question to a 13 year old is WHO AM I?

Faith & Moral Development Characteristics/Needs

- ◇ They need to learn to accept themselves, and their good characteristics and their weaknesses together will help the young person build a strong sense of worth
- ◇ Learning to live as Jesus did requires training and guidance this is an age where they can begin to incorporate into their lives the habits and disciplines that will continue to grow virtue and holiness in their lives for the rest of their lives
- ◇ Junior high students also closely identify and begin to form habits of a particular “hero” or person they admire. This is an important time to help them develop “heroes” in the faith. They need to seek out holy examples to model themselves after.
- ◇ This is the time where students also begin to form consciences. Junior high students must be taught the appropriate ways to grow their consciences (scripture, the sacraments, study etc.
- ◇ This is also a tumultuous time in growing in their understanding of sexuality. A real and honest teaching on The Theology of the Body is necessary in this time
- ◇ As they are searching for identity in this time it is important to reinforce their identity in Christ and in the Church

- ◇ As these young people prepare for high school and eventually adulthood they will be looking to social circles and peers for answers (about life, truth, identity, etc) it is important that we give them a strong foundation to discern when they are faced with an untruth or serious immoral actions. We have an obligation to help form their consciences.

Catechetical Implications

- ◇ As a prime role model for the Children, the teacher of the faith needs to have a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community.
- ◇ Catechists must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church

God's Plan of Salvation History

It is very important that before you dive into the curriculum and the catechetical standards that the year be introduced by the Story. The context of the Story of salvation History will provide the proper foundation for the rest of your catechetical instruction. The Story can be taught as a one day lesson, or a week long lesson. Each teacher must make a determination of how long they will take to present the Story to their students. Work in the Textbook should not begin until your students have their story-God's story of Salvation History. An overview of God's Plan of Salvation History is to be presented at the beginning of each year. Please make the presentation appropriate to the grade level.

1. God is a communion of Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The three Persons in one God is the Blessed Trinity. God has no beginning and no end. (CCC 234, 232, 237)
2. God is our Father Who loves us and cares for us. God created each person to be united with Him. (CCC 426, 301, 759, 305, 375, 2014)
3. God created everything out of nothing. (CCC 296-298, 338)
4. God created angels as spiritual beings. Angels are God's messengers. We all have our own personal guardian angel. Our guardian angel keeps constant, watchful care over us and guides us and protects us on our journey to God in Heaven. (CCC 328-329, 331-333, 336)
5. All of the angels were put to a test to see if they would be faithful to God. Lucifer and some of the angels completely rejected God and they became Satan and his demons. (Revelation 12:7-9) (CCC 391-395)
6. God created Adam and Eve in His image and likeness. He created Adam and Eve and the whole human race to know, love and serve Him so that we can be united with Him both here and forever in Heaven. Adam and Eve were united fully with God through sanctifying grace within their souls, a participation in God's Divine Life. (CCC, 362-366, 356-357, 374-376, 1934)
7. Adam and Eve were put to a test to see if they would be faithful to God. Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and they disobeyed God. The first sin of Adam and Eve (the Original Sin) separated them from God. They and all their descendants lost the union with God that they had been created for. They no longer had sanctifying grace within their souls. (CCC 396-400, 402-406, 418)
8. God alone could fix the problem of sin and reunite mankind with Himself. Thankfully, God promised a Savior (Genesis 3:15). Only the Savior could bring us back to the purpose for which we were created being united with God (communion with God). In the Old Testament, God began to form His people through Abraham. Moses was given the Law so that the people knew how to live in order to be faithful to the one true God. The Israelites could not be faithful to the God's Law because they did not have sanctifying grace, a share in God's life, to strengthen them. The prophets told the people to prepare for the Messiah, Who would bring about a salvation which would include all the nations. Through the Savior, God would keep His promise to reunite us with Himself as adopted children. (CCC 410-412, 420-421, 54-64, 2570-2589)
9. Jesus is God. Jesus was born as man on the first Christmas as our Savior. This is called the Incarnation. (CCC 464, 461, 463, 443-445)
10. Mary's "yes" to God to be the Mother of Jesus made our salvation possible. Since Mary is the Mother of Jesus and Jesus is God, we rightly call Mary the Mother of God. (CCC 494-495, 497, 509, 485, 723)

- 11.** Jesus began the foundation of the Church by preaching the Good News, instituting the seven sacraments and establishing the Church with a structure. The structure consisted of the twelve Apostles with Peter as the head. (CCC 763-766, 759, 1114)
- 12.** Jesus suffered, died on the cross and rose on Easter Sunday. Jesus did this to save us from the power of sin and death and to reunite us with Himself. (CCC 612, 616, 619, 629, 639-640, 654)
- 13.** The Church was born from the flow of blood and water from the open side of the crucified Christ: the water of Baptism and the Blood of the Eucharist. (CCC 766)
- 14.** Christ's work of redemption was accomplished primarily by His Suffering, Death, Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven. These four events are called the Paschal Mystery. (CCC 1067)
- 15.** Forty days after the Resurrection Jesus ascended to His Father, which we celebrate on the Ascension. Ten days later, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to remain with us until the end of time. (CCC 665, 731-732, 233)
- 16.** At Pentecost the Holy Spirit strengthened the Apostles to imitate Christ. The Holy Spirit empowered them to administer the Sacraments, to teach what Jesus had taught them and to lead the Church. Pentecost is when we celebrate the public manifestation of the Catholic Church. (CCC 767, 747, 771-773, 1585, 780, 1076)
- 17.** This was the first time that mankind received sanctifying grace, a participation in God's Divine Life, since the original sin of Adam and Eve. We are only able to live the Christian life with the aid of supernatural grace received through the Church by the Sacraments and from actual grace through a life of daily prayer. (CCC 1226-1228, 1265-1266, 747, 1996-2000)
- 18.** Jesus will come again in glory with the Kingdom of God in its fullness. He will judge the living and the dead and those who have chosen to follow Jesus will reign forever with Him. He will bring His Family into full union with Him and put an end to suffering and death forever. (CCC 1040, 1042-1045)

Creed – Profession of Faith

Section One: the Creed pertains to what God, our heavenly Father has revealed about Himself and His Plan for our Salvation (saving us from Sin) and sanctification (making us Holy) through Jesus Christ His Son by the Power of the Holy Spirit. God has acted first. Faith is our response to what God has revealed. These Truths are gathered together in the Creed.

Catholic school/parish catechetical students in the Diocese of Madison will know and understand the fundamental teachings of Jesus Christ in His Church, according to the articles of our Profession of Faith.

A. Understand revelation as God’s action to make Himself known in creation, in his relationship with Israel, and in the Person of Jesus Christ.

1. Know and retell the Story of Salvation History
2. Support how we are fully human only if we live a life recognizing that God made us and that we find fulfillment only in him. Our longing for him shows of his reality and our need for him in our lives.” (CCC 27,44, 45)
3. Demonstrate that beyond what we can know of God by natural reason, through our sciences and through his creation. God has fully revealed his plan of living goodness by sending us his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. (CCC 32-33, 46-47, 50)
4. Explain that God’s Revelation is complete and definitive in Christ Jesus, and no new revelation is expected. It remains for mankind to grasp the full significance of revelation gradually. (CCC 65-66)
5. Explain how through Sacred Tradition, "the Church in her doctrine, life, and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes.” (CCC 78, 98)
6. Defend that the human writers of the Scriptures are true authors. To discover their intention, the reader must take into account the literary forms of that time. (CCC 106, 110)
7. Explain that “Interpretation of the inspired Scriptures must be attentive above all to what God wants to reveal through the sacred authors for our salvation.” therefore, scripture is to be read and interpreted within the Sacred Tradition of the whole Church. (CCC 109-119; 137-37)

B. Understand Faith as an assent to God who reveals Himself.

1. Explain that faith is a supernatural gift of God, by which we believe on the authority of God, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. It is interior helps of the Holy Spirit that are needed to help us believe . (CCC 153, 156, 179)
2. Explain faith is also a fully free, human act, in accord with the dignity of the human person. (CCC 154-60)
3. Demonstrate that faith and science can never contradict one another, because both come from God. (CCC 159)

4. Explain that faith is a priceless gift which may be lost if it is not constantly nourished by the Word of God, work through charity and is rooted in the faith of the Church. (CCC 162)

C. Understand Sacred Scripture as witness to God's Self-Revelation.

Not at this level.

D. Be familiar with the structure and contents of Sacred Scripture and be able to use it.

1. Retell the stories from Sacred Scripture that describe the person and ministry of Jesus Christ:
 - a. The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:16-31)
 - b. The Money Changers in the Temple (Mark 11:15-18)
 - c. The Baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:13-17)
 - d. The Last Judgment (Matthew 25:35-40)
 - e. Jesus Announces His Mission (Luke 4:14-23)
 - f. Jesus: The Second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:47)
 - g. The Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11)

E. Know and understand the articles of the Apostles' Creed.

1. Explain that communion in faith of the universal Church requires a common language. (CCC 185)
2. Recognize that the Nicene Creed comes to us from the great Councils of Nicea and Constantinople. It is prayed every Sunday at Mass. (CCC 195)

"I Believe in God the Father"

3. Explain how in the mystery of the Trinity, the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God; yet the three persons are distinct from one another. This truth does not contradict the unity of one God. (CCC 202, 253-54, 266)
4. Explain how evil, especially moral evil, is a great mystery—but even this is not outside God's powerful providence, which orders all things for good. In the fullness of life and light in the vision of God, we will witness the definitive triumph of God's love and goodness over all evil and pain. (CCC 309-314, 324)
5. Justify the existence of spiritual, immaterial angels who praise and serve God is a truth of faith. (CCC 327-28, 350)
6. Explain that the human person is a union of body and soul. (CCC 362-65, 382)
7. Explain how original sin is a deprivation of original holiness and justice; by it human nature is wounded in its natural powers; human nature is subject to ignorance, suffering and the dominion of death; it is inclined to sin. (CCC 405)

“I Believe in Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God”

8. Make the connection that in the Old Testament, God was addressed as “Lord”; and to call Jesus “Lord” means he is equal to the Father. Consequently, it is a title of authority, sovereignty, love and affection. (CCC 446, 448-50, 455)
9. Explain that Jesus Christ is not part God and part man, nor a confused mixture of divine and human. Remaining truly God, he became truly a man. (CCC 464, 479)
10. Explain how Jesus learned as we do; yet he also had an immediate knowledge of his Father and understood fully the Father’s eternal plan. (CCC 472-74)
11. Explain that Mary “remained a virgin in conceiving her Son, a virgin in giving birth to him...[and] always a virgin.” (CCC 496, 499, 510)
12. Explain: “The whole of Christ’s life was a continual teaching; his silences, his miracles, his gestures, his prayer, his love for people, his special affection for the little and the poor. His acceptance of the total sacrifice on the Cross for the redemption of the world and his Resurrection are the actualization of his word and the fulfillment of Revelation.” (CCC 515-17, 561)
13. Explain: “In his human soul united to his divine person, the dead Christ went down to the realm of the dead. He opened heaven’s gates for the just who had gone before him.” (CCC 632-35, 637)
14. Explain: “Faith in the Resurrection has as its object as event which is historically attested to by the disciples, who really encountered the Risen One. At the same time, this event is mysteriously transcendent insofar as it is the entry of Christ’s humanity into the glory of God.” (CCC 639, 647, 656)
15. Explain how it is possible to condemn oneself for eternity by rejecting grace and the Spirit of Love. (CCC 679)
16. Explain: Christ will come on the last day to judge every person according to their works. (CCC 681-82)

“I Believe in the Holy Spirit.”

17. Distinguish the activities of the Son and the Spirit in salvation history as distinct but inseparable. (CCC 689-90, 727,737, 743)
18. Illustrate how the Holy Spirit builds up the Church. (CCC 747)

“I believe in the Holy Catholic Church”

19. Explain how the Catholic Church is an invisible communion in the Spirit, and a visible community with a hierarchical structure and the Pope at her head. These two components form but one mystery, which can be recognized only in faith. (CCC 765, 771, 779)
20. Describe how the Church is Trinitarian: People of God, Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, she mirrors the very unity of the Trinity. (CCC 782, 789, 797, 810)
21. Explain: Only the Catholic Church has the full means of salvation, but other Christians share elements of grace and truth. Those born into non-Catholic Christian communities do not share in the sin of separation. (CCC 816-19, 830, 837-38, 870)
22. Explain how the bishops form a college of which the Pope is the head. (CCC 877, 879-95)

23. Explain how the Pope and the bishops in communion with him constitute the Magisterium of the Church. When they teach definitively, they enjoyed the Church's infallibility. When the trust one places in the Church as founded by Christ. (CCC 889-92)
24. Describe how Mary cooperated with Christ in the work of redemption. (CCC 964, 968, 973)

"I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins."

25. Explain why the power to forgive sins is a great gift of Christ to the Catholic Church. (CCC 983)

"I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body"

26. Explain that death is the separation of soul and body, but they will be reunited in incorruptibility on the last day. (CCC 997, 1005, 1016-17)
27. Describe how the reality of death reminds us to be serious about our lives. God gives us only one life, unique and unrepeatable; there is no reincarnation. (CCC 1007, 1013)

"I Believe in Life Everlasting."

28. Explain that the Kingdom of God comes in its fullness only in heaven, yet earthly progress will contribute to it. (CCC 1049, 1060)

Sacraments – Celebration of the Christian Mystery

Section two pertains to the way God continues to make available to us His grace won for us by Jesus' saving Death and Resurrection. We receive God's saving grace in the sacraments which are actions of God to bring us into communion with Him and to strengthen us to remain in communion with Him. He has given us a share in His divine life-for no other reason than He loves us. We need to respond to the grace God gives us in the Sacraments.

Catholic school/parish catechetical students in the Diocese of Madison will know and appreciate the centrality of the Eucharist and the importance of the sacraments in the life of Catholics.

F. Understand and participate in liturgical seasons, feasts, and celebrations. (CCC 1076-1199, 1273)

1. Explain that an active sacramental life benefits both the individual and the Church. (CCC 1134)
2. Explain that through an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Christian liturgy not only recalls the events that saved us, but makes them (the Paschal Mystery) present. (CCC 1104)
3. Justify why Christ is the ultimate celebrant of every sacrament. (CCC 1070,76)
4. Connect the Liturgical calendar with the life of Christ; include the Incarnation through the expectation of the second coming of the Lord. (CCC 1194)
5. Connect the Paschal mystery as a real historical event with the celebration of Mass in all times and places. (CCC 1085)
6. Explain that in the liturgical celebration, we are joined to the heavenly liturgy. (CCC 1187, 1136-39)

G. Name, define, and describe each of the seven sacraments of the Church and will know how to participate in the celebration of each (CCC Baptism 1210-84, Confirmation 1285-1321, Eucharist 1322-1419, Reconciliation 1422-98, Anointing of the Sick 1499-1532, Holy Orders 1536-1600, Matrimony 1601-66)

1. Justify how those who seek God in ignorance of Baptism can be saved without actual Baptism. (CCC 1281, 1257-60, 1276-77)
2. Describe transubstantiation. (CCC 1413, 1374-76)
3. Explain that concupiscence is the inclination to sin. (CCC 1426)
4. Defend the individual confession of grave sins followed by absolution as the means of reconciliation with the God and the Church. (CCC 1497, 1484)
5. Support the value of chastity and its relationship to honorable courtship and marriage. (CCC 1632)

6. Discuss and defend that Jesus taught that sacramental marriage is permanent and cannot be dissolved; the Church cannot change that teaching
7. Explain the effects of the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick are to give grace of strengthening, peace and courage so suffering becomes a participation in the saving work of Jesus. (CCC 1527, 1532; 1520-23)
8. Explain why priests are ordained to serve as co-workers with the bishop, in whom the presence of Christ as head of the Church, is made visible in the community of believers. (CCC 1549, 1562)
9. Justify why only men may become priests after being called by God. (CCC 1577-78, 98)
10. Prioritize the most important role of the priest as celebrating the Eucharist. (CCC 1566)
11. Justify why priests refrain from marriage. (e.g. To give themselves entirely to God and to serve the whole community of believers.) (CCC 1579)
12. Outline the requirements of a candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation. (CCC 1310, 1319)
13. Explain that by its very nature, marriage must be open to children, whom the parents will educate. (CCC 1643, 1652-53)
14. Explain that persons who are divorced and remarried, without an annulment remain in the Church but cannot receive Holy Communion. Review the annulment process. (CCC 1665)

H. Understand the Eucharist has a special and central place in the life of the Church and in their own lives because it contains the very act of redemption which Jesus accomplished in his life, death, and resurrection. (CCC: 1322-1419)

1. Describe how the Eucharist is an anticipation of the heavenly glory to come. (CCC 1402-05, 1419)

Morality –Life in Christ

Section three is about how we should respond to Jesus’ love by the way we live. As his children, we should live as he has asked. The moral life is not an arbitrary list of rules, but laws of love that help us to know how to live to stay close to Jesus. Living life as Jesus asks us to live leads to true joy and peace.

Catholic school/parish catechetical students in the Diocese of Madison will understand and reflect the dignity of the human person and his vocation to freely know, love and serve God and neighbor. With the help of grace, they will seek holiness by avoiding sin, growing in virtue, and entrusting themselves to the mercy of God.

I. Understand the dignity of every human person stemming from their creation in the image and likeness of God. (CCC 1691-1876)

1. Evaluate how a properly formed conscience calls us to conversion, confession, and reconciliation. (CCC 1847-1848)

J. Understand that the human person is made for communion, both with God and the human community. (CCC 1877-1948)

1. Justify how attempts to remedy “social sins” must first begin with personal interior conversion. (CCC 1888-1896)
2. Compare and contrast subsidiary with solidarity demonstrating how both principles serve the common good. (CCC 1883-85, 1894, 1924-26, 1939-48)
3. Demonstrate how respect for the human person relates to the common good. (CCC 1905-12, 1929-33)

K. Understand that wounded by sin, man needs salvation by God who comes to him in Christ who teaches us the law of love and recreates us in his image through the gift of his grace. (CCC 1949-2051)

1. Relate the principle of the natural law and its universal application to moral dilemmas. (CCC 1954-1959, 1978-79)
2. Outline the basis for the Church's right to teach on moral matters providing examples of methods and levels of authority. (CCC 2032-36, 2049-51)

L. Understand how to judge the morality of acts and how the conscience is properly formed. (CCC 1730-1802)

1. Compare and contrast true freedom (the ability to pursue our vocation) with license to do as we please. Explain why it is that the more one does good, the freer they become. (CCC 1731, 1733, 1740, 1744, 1747, 1803-4)
2. Demonstrate how God's will is rightly pursued by the correct formation and following of one's conscience in a difficult moral situation. (Be sure to apply and analyze the three sources of morality in this case.) (CCC 1776-94, 1749-61)
3. Describe what is meant by an intrinsically evil act. (CCC 1755-1761)
4. Demonstrate why moral and religious freedom are fundamental human rights which must therefore be recognized and protected by civil authority within the limit of the common good and public order. (CCC 1738, 1782)
5. Evaluate why a sense of sin is crucial for conversion, confession, reconciliation and salvation. (CCC 1846-8)

M. Understand the Ten Commandments. (CCC 2052-2557)

1. Connect the requirement for compassion to the woundedness of every human person. (CCC 2357-59, 2396)

1st Commandment

2. Examine how our worship of God is an act of justice, and why atheism is a sin against this duty. (CCC 2095-97, 2123-26, 2140)

2nd Commandment

Not at this level

3rd Commandment

3. Enumerate and explain the duties and valid options for how a Catholic will sanctify the Lord's Day. (CCC 2180-86, 2194)

4th Commandment

4. Examine and defend the duties of a Catholic when facing an immoral command of authority, providing examples. (CCC 2242, 2256)

5th Commandment

5. Explain the concept of legitimate defense, and enumerate the conditions for a just war. (CCC 2263-65, 2309, 2321)
6. Explain under what conditions the death penalty is permitted (only when other means of protecting human lives are not possible). (CCC 2266-67)

7. Describe and morally evaluate kidnapping, hostage-taking, terrorism, torture and amputations, mutilations and sterilizations of the innocent. (CCC 2397)

6th Commandment

8. Critique why pornography, masturbation and contraception are violations of human dignity. (CCC 2331-51, 2352, 2354, 2370, 2399)
9. Differentiate between homosexual acts and homosexual tendencies. (CCC 2357-59, 2396)

7th Commandment

10. Explain the Church's preferential love of the poor. (CCC 2444, 2448)
11. Define the following offenses against truth: perjury, rash judgment, detraction, calumny, boasting, and lying. (CCC 2475-87)

8th Commandment

12. Explain why the right to truth is not unconditional, and provide examples of when keeping silent is the best moral decision. (CCC 2488-89, 2491-92, 2510-11)

9th Commandment

10th Commandment

Christian Prayer

Prayer is an essential way we respond to God who loved us first. Prayer is necessary if we are to know God personally and to do His will. Living the Christian Life is almost impossible without prayer.

Catholic school/parish catechetical students in the Diocese of Madison will understand the revelation and tradition of the Catholic life of prayer.

N. Understand what prayer is and the revelation of prayer. (CCC 2559 – 2649)

1. Point out that since God blessed our human hearts we can in return bless Him. (CCC 2645)
2. Define contemplative prayer and determine what distinguishes it from other prayer. (CCC 2709-19, 2724)
3. Assess the benefits of contemplative prayer. (CCC 2709-19, 2724)

O. Understand the Catholic Christian tradition of prayer (CCC 2650 – 2696)

1. Describe the faith benefits of fasting prescribed by the Church. (CCC 2043)

P. Understand and experience the Catholic Christian life of prayer (CCC 2697 – 2758)

1. Develop and follow a regular personal prayer plan.
2. Describe Lectio Divina (praying with the Scriptures) and assess the benefits to your prayer life.
3. Explain the significance of the Novena in our prayers.
4. Recite rote prayers assessed in all previous grades.

Q. Understand the Lord's prayer as a summary of the whole gospel and its many uses within the Christian life (CCC 2759 – 2865)

Not at this level.

Prayers to Learn

Children in sixth grade should be introduced to the following Prayers and should be able to recite:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Sign of the Cross | 13. Memorare |
| 2. Our Father | 14. Hail Holy Queen |
| 3. Hail Mary | 15. All Mysteries of the Rosary |
| 4. Glory Be | 16. Angelus |
| 5. Morning Offering | 17. Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel |
| 6. Prayer before meals | 18. Litany of the Sacred Heart |
| 7. Prayer to Guardian Angel | 19. Litany to the Blessed Virgin |
| 8. Act of Contrition | 20. Divine Mercy Chaplet |
| 9. Apostles & Nicene Creed | 21. Divine Praises |
| 10. Mass responses | 22. Anima Christi |
| 11. Stations of the Cross | 23. Prayer for Vocations |
| 12. Prayer to prepare for Mass, Prayer for
after Communion | 24. Prayer to Know One's Vocation |

Children of this age group should be participating in the following forms of prayer:

1. Spontaneous Prayer
2. Gestures: Genuflection, Sign of the Cross, blessing oneself with Holy water
3. Song as prayer
4. Reflection: thinking about God and listening while reading from Scripture
5. Silence: at Mass or in the Church (beginning to develop a sense of reverence)
6. Prayer Journaling
7. Daily Examination of Conscience
8. Participate in a Rosary: Know all Mysteries
9. Participate in Devotions: Stations of the Cross, Novenas - Sacred Heart of Jesus
10. Adoration
11. Saint intercession
12. Litanies
13. Examen & Lectio Divina

Children of this age should know and recognize the following sacramentals:

1. Crucifix
2. Bible
3. Introduce the Catechism
4. Images of Jesus & Mary
5. Images of Saints, Icons
6. Relics
7. Rosary—as a way to pray with Mary
8. Items in the Church: Tabernacle, Presider's chair, Holy Water font, Crucifix, candles (method of prayer)
9. Items used at Mass: vestments, chalice, ciborium, hosts, wine, ambo, altar, purificator, corporal, cruets, thurible, incense, lectionary, sacramentary

Vocations

From the moment of our baptism, God has a special plan for each of us. God calls us to life in Christ, in order that, with Christ, we may offer our whole life in love of God and our neighbor. At our confirmation, God strengthens and increases that the life of the Holy Spirit within us, so that we will have the inspiration and strength to respond to God's call.

The official definition of the word vocation according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church is: The calling or destiny we have in this life and hereafter. God has created the human person to love and serve him; the fulfillment of this vocation is eternal happiness (CCC 1, 358, 1700). Christ calls the faithful to perfection and holiness (CCC 825). The Vocation of the laity consists in seeking the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will (CCC 898). Priestly and religious vocations are dedicated to the service of the Church as the universal sacrament of Salvation (873, 931).

In Eighth Grade the children should be taught the church's teaching on vocations as an independent session or incorporated into a daily plan. More specifically, young people need to pray each day to know their personal vocation in life, to discover God's call. Discovering one's vocation is not the same thing as planning our lives, or picking a new job to do. This discovery is based on such questions as: "What does God want from me?" and "How does God want me to use the gifts that he has given me?" "How is God calling me to serve him by serving my neighbor?" and "What plan does God have for my life that will bring me the most joy and fulfillment?" the planning and organizing of life comes after the discovery (discernment) of God's personal call. Christ calls each person to follow Him in a special way as a **married person**, a **consecrated person**, a **deacon** or **ordained priest**. These are personal vocations by which we respond to live God's primary call, the vocation to love God (Holiness of Life).

Bible & the Catechism

By the 8th Grade, Students should be well versed in the use of Scripture. They should now be looking to the bible as a guide and a hope to how they are called to live and they move forward in life. Scripture should be regularly used in instruction and with homework. Students should have prayer opportunities focused on reading and reflecting on Scripture.

They are also somewhat familiar with the Catechism. Both the Adult and the YOUCAT can be used for instruction. Students should review how to use the Catechism and should be given opportunities to look up and search for answers to tough questions. The Goal is to arm them with the tools that will help them for the rest of their lives.

Prayers

Prayer for Vocations

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God. Give them courage and strength to follow God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's holy service.

Amen.

OR

*GOD our FATHER,
WHO wills that all men be saved
And come to the knowledge of YOUR
Truth:
We beg you to send
Laborers into YOUR harvest,
And grant them grace to speak YOUR
Word
With all boldness; so that YOUR Word
May spread and be glorified,
And all nations may know YOU,
The only GOD, and HIM WHOM YOU
have sent,
JESUS CHRIST YOUR SON, Our
LORD.*

Amen.

*Our Lady, Queen of the Americas,
And Mary, Mother of the
Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal
Word,
Pray for us.*

Prayer to Know One's Vocation

*Gracious God,
You have called me to life
and gifted me in many ways.
Through Baptism You have sent me
to continue the mission of Jesus
by sharing my love with others.
Strengthen me to respond to
Your call each day.
Help me to become all You desire of
me.
Inspire me to make a difference in
others' lives.
Lead me to choose the way of life
You have planned for me.
Open the hearts of all to listen
to Your call.
Fill all with Your Holy Spirit that
we may have listening hearts and
the courage to respond to You.
Enkindle in my heart
and the hearts of others the desire
to make the world a better place
by serving as
Lay Minister, Sister, Priest,
Brother or Deacon.*

Amen.