

**EIGHTH GRADE**  
from the Curriculum Guidelines for  
Religious Education, Diocese of Pittsburgh

**IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION**

**THEME:**

**As the Creed is the story of the Church, it is also the faith story of each member. The following themes have been chosen from the Creed as topics for immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation (SIP #102.4). The topics could be covered in a regular class session, a day of reflection, a parent/child evening sessions, etc.**

- God the Creator
- Jesus and the Paschal Mystery
- Holy Spirit the Sanctifier
- Church as Community of Life
- Practice of Virtue
- Sacrament and Sacraments of Initiation (History of Confirmation)
- Symbols of the Spirit: Rite of Confirmation

**MESSAGE:**

◆ **God the Creator**

- God is the creator who creates all things good (CCC 290, 299)
- all of creation is the result of God's unconditional love (CCC 293)
- happiness depends upon understanding who God created us to be (CCC 282, 301)
- through personal prayer and the community of believers, we are part of salvation history (CCC 1092, 1095)
- we play a role in keeping all God's creation sacred (CCC 307)

◆ **Jesus and the Paschal Mystery**

- God so loved the world that Jesus entered the human experience (CCC 422)
- the humanity of Jesus is the standard for our humanity (CCC 159, 521)
- our daily life journey is related to the Paschal Mystery (CCC 556, 618)
- the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus is the Paschal Mystery (CCC, 512, 571)
- Baptism is immersion into the life of Christ (CCC 537, 1214)
- in the Eucharist, we are offered the real presence of Christ (CCC 1374)
- we are called to become the living presence of Christ in the world (CCC 521)

### ◆ **Holy Spirit the Sanctifier**

- the Holy Spirit is a distinct person of the Blessed Trinity sent by the Father and Son to live within us and unite us (CCC 686)
- we are called to membership within the community of believers through the Spirit (CCC 747)
- the Spirit strengthens our relationship with Jesus and empowers us to continue His mission through the gifts of the Spirit (CCC 737, 768)
- the Spirit empowers us to proclaim Jesus, the person and message, “to the ends of the earth” (CCC 739, 1285)
- the Holy Spirit enlightens our choices so that we come to recognize the will of God in our lives (CCC 1472, 1788)

### ◆ **Church as Community of Life**

- the Church is a family of faith called to holiness through Baptism (CCC 753, 1267)
- the faith family, Church, offers support, guidance, and care for its members throughout life (CCC 794, 1269)
- godparents and sponsors represent the Christian community and are to be models of faith (CCC 1255)
- the communion of saints is the community of all believers, living and dead (CCC 957-958)
- liturgy is a celebration of the community whose life and faith is nurtured by the word and the Eucharist and by the presence of each individual (CCC 752)
- the Church is at once human and divine (CCC 827)
- the Church is the Sacrament of Christ and is necessary for salvation for those who know that Christ willed this (CCC 669)

### ◆ **Practice of Virtue**

- there is power in and responsibility for God’s gift of free will (CCC 1731)
- personal and social sins exist in our own life experience (CCC 401, 1868, 1869)
- we need to take ownership for our personal choices (CCC 1745)
- the Christian virtue of hope is based on the belief that Jesus triumphed over evil (CCC 420, 617)
- our ability to choose good is empowered by the Spirit (1788, 1811)

### ◆ **Sacrament and Sacraments of Initiation**

- the “seven sacraments touch all stages and important moments of a Christian’s life” (CCC 1210)
- the sacraments of initiation “lay the foundations of every Christian’s life” (CCC 1212, 1533)
- the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace (CCC 1285, 1304)

- in the Sacrament of Confirmation the confirmed are “enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit” (CCC 1285)
- the history of the Sacrament of Confirmation should be understood (CCC 1290-1292)

◆ **Symbols of the Spirit: Rite of Confirmation**

- the renewal of baptismal vows in the Rite of Confirmation affirms the connection between the initiation sacraments (CCC 1298)
- the Christian life is one of continual conversion from sin to a life of grace (CCC 1426)
- the Paschal Mystery triumphs over sin and through personal conversion we become “other Christs” to the world (CCC 739, 1067-1068)
- the ancient liturgical gesture of imposing hands symbolizes the confirming of the divine power of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1288)
- each confirmed person is empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to share their faith with others as they continue the mission of Jesus (CCC 1303, 1831)
- the anointing with oil in the Rite of Confirmation symbolizes selection and strength as it did in biblical times (CCC 1293)
- being marked with the sign of the cross is a reminder that we share in the life of Christ (CCC 265)
- the Amen is the candidate’s personal affirmation of his/her desire to be a spiritual witness

◆ **To review sacraments as specific faith actions of the Church empowered by Jesus through the guidance of the Spirit**

- by recalling the sacraments of Initiation, Healing, Service and Commitment
- by continuing the preparation of students for participation in the Rite of Reconciliation and communal celebrations of Reconciliation
- by encouraging frequent reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s grace
- by understanding that Christ acts in the Church as the ultimate celebrant of every sacrament
- by realizing that Christ is the principal celebrant of the sacraments, that they are effective even if the minister is unworthy
- by assisting the students to realize that in the liturgy, and especially in the sacraments, there are unchangeable parts, which are divinely given, and parts that the Church has the authority to adapt to different cultures



The following appendices provide a collection of catechetical essentials which all students should know at the completion of their elementary formation, culminating in the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation.

# APPENDIX I

*Prayers to Learn  
and Memorize*

## THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

*Mt. 28:19*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC pp. 152, 344, 508*  
*CCC p. 62, #233*

## OUR FATHER

*Mt. 6:9-13*

Our Father,  
Who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name;  
Your kingdom come;  
Your will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against  
us;  
and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC pp. 344, 357-358, 507*  
*CCC #2759, 2761, 2777-2865*

## HAIL MARY

*Lk. 1:28, 42*

Hail Mary,  
full of grace!  
the Lord is with you;  
blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC pp. 344, 508*  
*CCC #2676-2677*

## GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC pp. 344, 508*  
*CCC #2628*

## SIMPLE MORNING OFFERING

God, our Father,  
I offer you today  
All that I think  
and do and say.  
I offer it with  
what was done  
On earth by Jesus Christ,  
Your Son.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC p. 356*  
*CCC #2698*

## MORNING OFFERING

*Mt. 6:6 (Pray to the Father in secret)*

O Jesus, through the  
Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You  
my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings  
of this day in union with the Holy  
Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the  
world.

I offer them for all the intentions  
of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of  
souls, reparation for sin, the reunion of  
all Christians.

I offer them for the intentions of  
our Bishops and of all apostles of Prayer,  
and in particular for those recommended  
by our Holy Father this month.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC p. 356*  
*CCC #2698*

### TO THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

Angel of God,  
my guardian dear,  
to whom God's love  
commits me here  
Ever this day  
be at my side,  
to light and guard,  
to rule and guide.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC p. 87*  
*CCC #328, 329, 336*

### GRACE BEFORE MEALS

*Jn. 6:11,*

*Acts 27:35* (The Lord prayed at Meals)  
Bless us, O Lord,  
and these Your gifts  
which we are about to receive  
from your goodness,  
through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC p. 512*  
*CCC #2698*

### GRACE AFTER MEALS

We give You thanks,  
almighty God,

for all Your goodness.  
You live and reign  
now and forever.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC p. 512*  
*CCC #2698*

### ACTS OF CONTRITION

O my God,  
I am heartily sorry for having offended  
You, and I detest all my sins, because I  
dread the loss of heaven and the pains of  
hell, but most of all because they offend  
You, my God, who are all-good and  
deserving of all my love. I firmly  
resolve, with the help of Your grace to  
confess my sins, to do penance and to  
amend my life.

### ACTS OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins  
with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong and failing  
to do good,  
I have sinned against you whom  
I should love above all things.  
I firmly intend, with your help,  
to do penance, to sin no more, and to  
avoid whatever leads me to sin.  
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died  
for us.  
In His name, my God, have mercy.

*TTOC pp. 344, 426*  
*CCC #1451*

### FATIMA PRAYER

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us  
from the fires of hell;  
Lead all souls to heaven especially those  
who are most in need of your mercy.

## SIMPLE ACTS OF FAITH, HOPE, LOVE

Jesus, I believe in You.

Jesus, I hope in You.

Jesus, I love You.

*TTOC pp. 336-337, 344*

*CCC #2637-2639*

### ACT OF FAITH

O my God, I firmly believe that  
You are one God in three divine  
Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe that Your divine Son  
became man and died for our sins, and  
that He will come to judge the living and  
the dead.

I believe these and all the truths which the  
holy Catholic Church teaches, because  
You have revealed them.

In this faith I desire to live and die

*Amen.*

### ACT OF HOPE

O my God, trusting in Your promises  
and the infinite merits of Jesus Christ,  
our Redeemer, I hope for the pardon of  
my sins and the graces I need to serve  
You faithfully on earth, and to obtain  
eternal life in heaven.

*Amen.*

### ACT OF LOVE

O my God, I love You above all things  
with my whole heart and soul, because  
You are infinitely good and deserving of  
all my love.

I love my neighbor as myself for  
love of You.

*Amen.*

*TTOC pp. 344, 510-511*

*CCC #2656-2658*

## PRAYER RESPONSES AT MASS

*Refer to Parish Worship Guides.*

### CONFITEOR

I confess to almighty God,  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned through my own fault  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done,  
and in what I have failed to do;  
and I ask blessed Mary, ever Virgin,  
all the angels and saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

*CCC #2725*

### NICENE CREED

*(Used at Mass)*

We believe in one God, the Father,  
the Almighty, maker of heaven and  
earth, and of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten  
of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, one in  
Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
He was born of the Virgin Mary, and  
became man.

For our sake He was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We acknowledge one baptism for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC p. 356*  
*CCC pp. 49, 50*

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of Your Love.

Send forth Your spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, Who does instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Holy Spirit, a love and relish of what is right and just, and a constant enjoyment of His comforts.

Through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC p. 516*  
*CCC #2671*

### THE ANGELUS

*THE ANGEL OF THE LORD DECLARED UNTO MARY, AND SHE CONCEIVED OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.*

Hail Mary...

*"BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD. BE IT DONE UNTO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD."*

Hail Mary...

*PRAY FOR US, O HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, THAT WE MAY BE MADE WORTHY OF THE PROMISES OF CHRIST.*

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His resurrection.

Through the same Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC pp. 344, 514*  
*CCC #2673-79*

### QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Regina Coeli  
*(Used during Easter Season)*

Queen of heaven, rejoice, *ALLELUIA*:  
For He Whom you merited to bear,  
Alleluia,  
Has risen as He said, *ALLELUIA*.  
Pray for us to God, *ALLELUIA*.  
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary,  
*ALLELUIA*.

Because the Lord is truly risen, *ALLELUIA*.

Let us pray.

O God, Who by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, granted joy to the whole world: grant, we beg You, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life.

Through the same Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

*TTOC p. 515*  
*CCC pp. 2682*

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

*Amen.*

*TTOC pp. 344, 510*  
*CCC pp. 49, 50*

### HAIL HOLY QUEEN

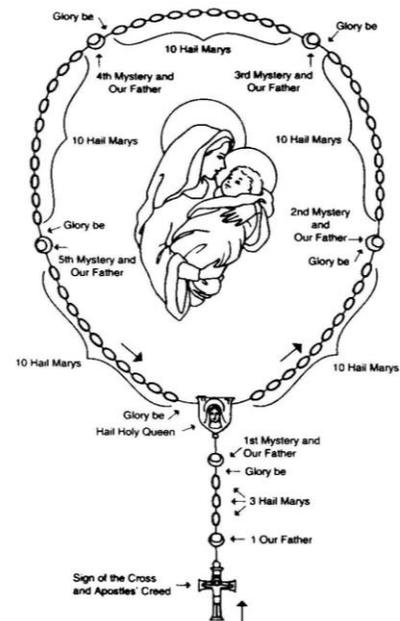
Hail, Holy Queen,  
Mother of Mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope!

To you do we cry,  
poor banished children of Eve;  
to you do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn, then, most gracious advocate,  
your eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this our exile, show us the  
blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving  
O sweet Virgin Mary!

*TTOC pp. 509-510*  
*CCC #2677*



*\*Permission of Barton-Cotton Inc.,  
Baltimore, Maryland.*

### THE ROSARY

A Rosary has a crucifix, followed by one large bead and three small ones. Then there is a chain circle with five "decades." Each decade consists of one large bead followed by ten smaller beads.

Begin the Rosary with the Sign of the Cross. Recite the Apostles' Creed. Then pray one Our Father, three Hail Marys, and one Glory Be to the Father.

To recite each decade, say one Our Father on the large bead and ten Hail Marys on the ten smaller beads. After each decade pray one Glory Be to the Father.

As you pray each decade, think of the appropriate Joyful, Sorrowful, or Glorious Mystery, or a special event in the life of Jesus and Mary. At the end pray the Hail Holy Queen.

#### **PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

Eternal Rest grant unto them,  
O Lord, and let Perpetual  
Light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC p. 513*  
*CCC #958*

#### **EVENING PRAYER**

Lord, watch over us this night.  
By your strength, may we rise at daybreak  
to rejoice in the Resurrection of Christ,  
Your Son, who lives and reigns for ever  
and ever.  
*Amen.*

#### **THE FIVE JOYFUL MYSTERIES** *(MONDAY & SATURDAY)*

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Jesus
4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

#### **THE FIVE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES** *(THURSDAY)*

1. Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan
2. Jesus' self-manifestation at the Wedding of Cana
3. Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

#### **THE FIVE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES** *(TUESDAY AND FRIDAY)*

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death

#### **THE FIVE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES** *(WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY)*

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
5. The Crowning of Mary in Heaven

*TTOC pp. 344, 509*  
*CCC #2708*

#### **MEMORARE**

Remember, O most gracious virgin Mary  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to your protection,  
implored your help,  
or sought your intercession was left  
unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence  
I fly to you,  
O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother.  
To you I come, before you I stand  
sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions but in your  
mercy hear and answer me.  
*Amen.*

*TTOC pp. 202-204*  
*CCC #991*

### **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Dear God, there is a certain call  
to do Your work and to serve Your  
people.  
Please help me to learn about that  
call and get ready to do it.

### **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

O dear Lord, many men, women and  
children need to meet you and to learn of  
the wonderful things you have in store  
for them.  
Please, send more priests and religious  
to introduce them to you and help them  
become your friends.  
*Amen.*

### **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Most High and Glorious God,  
we believe You are the gracious Creator  
of all love and You know our needs. By  
name, You have called us to be Yours in  
a personal way, to be a sign and a  
promise of your presence and love.

Help us each day to listen more carefully  
to the vocation to which you invite us.  
Raise up more young people among our  
family and friends who will hear and  
respond with joyful hearts, to the call of  
Your Son Jesus to "Come follow Me."

We pray for strength and perseverance  
for all the Laity, Sisters, Brothers,  
Deacons, Priests and Bishops who  
minister to your people.

We pray this in Jesus' name and in the light  
of Your Spirit.  
*Amen.*

### **DIVINE PRAISES**

Blessed be God.  
Blessed be his Holy Name.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ,  
true God and true man.  
Blessed be the name of Jesus.  
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.  
Blessed be his most Precious Blood.  
Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy  
Sacrament of the altar.  
Blessed be the Holy Spirit,  
the Consoler.  
Blessed be the great Mother of God,  
Mary most Holy.  
Blessed be her holy and  
Immaculate Conception.  
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.  
Blessed be the name of Mary,  
Virgin and Mother.  
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most  
chaste spouse.  
Blessed be God in his angels and  
in his saints.

### **THE WAY OF THE CROSS (STATIONS)**

The Way of the Cross commemorates the  
passion, death and resurrection of our Lord,  
Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus is condemned to die.
2. Jesus takes up His cross.
3. Jesus falls the first time under the weight  
of the cross.
4. Jesus meets His Mother.
5. Simon helps Jesus carry His cross.

6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
7. Jesus falls the second time.
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem who mourn for Him.
9. Jesus falls the third time.
10. Jesus is stripped of His garments.
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross.
12. Jesus dies on the cross.
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross.
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

### MARY'S CANTICLE

*Lk. 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly  
servant,  
and from this day all generations  
will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things  
for me; holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
He has scattered the proud in the  
conceit of their heart.

He has cast down the mighty from  
their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he remembered his promise of  
mercy, the promise he made to our  
fathers, to Abraham and his children  
forever.

*TTOC p. 514*  
*CCC #2619*

### PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS FOR PEACE

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; and  
where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that  
I may not seek so much to be consoled  
as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to  
eternal life.

*Amen.*

*CCC #2683, 2684, 2692*



# APPENDIX II



*Students should be familiar with  
the following concepts*

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

*(Grade 2) — The following or similar language is appropriate for first penance preparation*

1. Love God more than all things.
2. Say God's name with love.
3. Keep Sunday holy.
4. Honor your parents.
5. Take care of all living things.
6. Show respect for yourself and others.
7. Do not steal.
8. Tell the truth.
9. Do not be jealous.
10. Do not be greedy.

## TRADITIONAL CATECHETICAL FORMULA

*Grades 4-8*

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

*Ex. 20:2-17*

*Dt. 5:6-21*

*TTOC p. 247*

*CCC pp. 496, 497*

## THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

*Grades 2-8*

1. You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul and with your whole mind.
2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

*Mark 12:29-31*

*Matthew 22:37-40*

*Luke 10:27*

*TTOC p. 248*

*CCC #2055*

## THE BEATITUDES

*Grades 4-8*

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*Matthew 5:3-10*  
*TTOC p. 328*  
*CCC #1716*

### THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

*Grades 2-8*

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist
4. Penance
5. Anointing of the Sick
6. Holy Orders
7. Matrimony

*TTOC pp. 354, 362-363*  
*CCC #1210*

### TWELVE APOSTLES

*Grades 3-8*

1. Andrew
2. Bartholomew
3. James
4. James
5. John
6. Matthew
7. Matthias (replaced Judas Iscariot)
8. Peter
9. Philip
10. Simon
11. Thaddeus
12. Thomas

*Acts 1:21-26*  
*Matthew 10:2-4*  
*TTOC p. 168*  
*CCC #858*

### THE CARDINAL VIRTUES

*Grades 5-8*

1. Fortitude
2. Justice
3. Prudence
4. Temperance

*Wisdom 8:7*  
*TTOC p. 327*  
*CCC #1805*

### THE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES

*Grades 5-8*

1. Charity
2. Faith
3. Hope

*1 Cor. 13:13*  
*TTOC pp. 251, 254, 327*  
*CCC #1813*

### CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

*Grades 5-8*

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Shelter the homeless.
4. Clothe the naked.
5. Visit the sick and imprisoned.
6. Bury the dead.

*Matthew 25:35-40*  
*CCC #2447*

### SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

*Grades 5-8*

1. Instruct the ignorant.
2. Advise the doubtful.
3. Correct the sinner.

4. Comfort the afflicted.
5. Forgive offenses.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

*Gal 6:1-2*  
*1 Thes. 5:14-19*  
 CCC #2447

### GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Grades 7-8*

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Courage
4. Right Judgement
5. Knowledge
6. Reverence
7. Wonder and Awe

*Is. 11:1-3*  
*TTOC pp. 142, 328*  
 CCC #1831

### FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Grades 7-8*

1. Chastity
2. Faithfulness
3. Generosity
4. Gentleness
5. Goodness
6. Joy
7. Kindness
8. Love
9. Modesty
10. Patience
11. Peace
12. Self-Control

*Gal. 5:22-23*  
*TTOC p. 328*  
 CCC #1832

### MARKS OF THE CHURCH

*Grades 3-8*

1. One
2. Holy
3. Catholic
4. Apostolic

*TTOC p. 165*  
 CCC #865

### EUCCHARISTIC FAST

*Grades 2-8*

#### **GENERAL LAW:**

Those preparing to receive Communion must abstain from all food and drink for one hour prior to reception.

#### **EXCEPTIONS TO THE EUCCHARISTIC FAST:**

1. Water may be taken any time before Communion.
2. In the case of sickness, medicine may be taken any time before reception.

*Canon 919*  
*TTOC p. 377*

### HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION IN USA

*Grades 2-8*

1. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1)\*
2. Solemnity of the Ascension (Forty days after Easter)
3. Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)\*
4. Solemnity of All Saints (November 1)\*
5. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8)
6. Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (December 25)

- ◆ *When these days fall on a Saturday or a Monday, they are not observed as holy days of obligation. They do keep their major rank as solemnities and should always be celebrated with special care.*

**Canon 1246**  
**NCCB, December 1991**  
**TTOC p. 196**  
**CCC #2177**

### THE LAWS OF THE CHURCH

*Grades 4-8 — Traditionally called the Precepts of the Church.*

1. Celebrate Christ's Resurrection every Sunday and holy day of obligation.
  - ◆ *Take part in Mass*
  - ◆ *Avoid unnecessary work and unnecessary shopping*
  
2. Lead a sacramental life. Receive Holy Communion frequently and the Sacrament of Penance regularly.
  - ◆ *Receive Holy Communion at least once a year, in connection with the Easter Season, between the First Sunday of lent and Trinity Sunday.*
  - ◆ *Receive the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year (annual confession is an obligation only if serious sin is involved).*
  
3. Study Catholic teaching throughout life, especially in preparing for the sacraments.
  
4. Observe the marriage laws of the Catholic Church.

- ◆ *Give religious training to one's children (by example and word).*
- ◆ *Use parish schools and religious education programs.*

5. Strengthen and support the Church.

- ◆ *Support one's own parish community and parish priests.*
- ◆ *Support the worldwide Church.*
- ◆ *Support the Holy Father.*

6. Do penance, including not eating meat and fasting from food on appointed days.

7. Join in the missionary work of the Church.

**Basic Teachings NCCB, p. 28**  
**TTOC pp. 195-196**  
**CCC #2041-2043**

### DAYS OF PENANCE

*Grades 5-8*

1. All Fridays
2. Days of Lent

**Canon 1250**  
**TTOC pp. 404-405**  
**CCC #1438**

### GENERAL LAWS OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

*Grades 5-8*

**FAST:**

All adults, 18 up to the beginning of their sixtieth (60) year, are bound by the law of fasting. Fasting allows one full meal, but a light breakfast and lunch are not forbidden. Pastors and parents are to see to it that children while not bound to the law of fast

and abstinence are educated and introduced to an authentic sense of penance.

***ABSTINENCE:***

All persons 14 years and older are bound by the law of abstinence. Abstinence means not eating meat.

***DAYS OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE:***

Ash Wednesday

Good Friday

Fridays of Lent (abstinence)

On Fridays, when abstinence is not required by law, acts of penance, especially works of charity and exercises of piety are suggested. Abstinence from meat is especially recommended but under no obligation by law.

***Canon 1251-1253***

***TTOC p. 405***

***CCC #1434, 2043***

# APPENDIX III



*Feasts and Seasons  
to Celebrate*

## ORDINARY TIME

Apart from the seasons of Easter, Lent, Christmas, and Advent, there are thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in the course of the year which celebrate no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ. Instead, especially on the last Sundays, the mystery of Christ in all its fullness is celebrated. This period is known as Ordinary Time.

*N.C.D., Par. 144, p. 82*

## ANGELS

Personal and spiritual beings created by God, who know and praise him and share God's life. They possess both intelligence and will. They are servants and messengers of God. Guardian Angels watch over and guide each human person as agents of God's love.

*TTOC p. 87*  
*CCC #328, 329, 336*

## SAINTS

Persons who responded to the call to holiness and chose to follow Jesus faithfully.

We celebrate and honor our patron saints, parish/school saint(s) and the feast days of special saints.

*TTOC pp. 339, 468*  
*CCC #956, 957, 2030, 2156*

## SEPTEMBER 8 – BIRTH OF MARY

Mary was brought into the world unlike other children of Adam (not deprived of sanctifying grace and prone to sin) pure and holy, beautiful and glorious, chosen to be the Mother of God.

Her birth place is unknown, but Nazareth is favored by ancient tradition. Saints Anna and Joachim were her parents.

## SEPTEMBER 27 – SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Vincent grew up in a large French peasant family. As a boy he cared for the family's farm animals. He was motivated to help others by the poverty of his parishioners. Vincent had many wealthy and powerful friends. But he loved the poor. He started a religious order and parish groups to help the poor. Today the Saint Vincent de Paul Society is active all over the world.

## SEPTEMBER 29 – SAINTS MICHAEL, RAPHAEL AND GABRIEL—ARCHANGEL

**SAINT MICHAEL** – The prophet Daniel mentions this heavenly prince who stands guard over God's people as leader of God's power against Satan, darkness and sin.

*Daniel 10:13f*

## SAINT RAPHAEL

The book of Tobit relates the story of the angel Raphael accompanying Tobit's son, Tobias, to Media. He is considered the Patron of Travelers.

*Tobit 5:1-28*

## SAINT GABRIEL

Luke in his account of the Annunciation depicts Gabriel as the angel who appeared to Mary and asked her to become the Mother of Jesus.

*Luke 1:26-38*

## OCTOBER 1 SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

All her life Therese suffered from illness. She endured prolonged periods of darkness when the light of faith seemed all but extinguished.

This Carmelite nun preferred hidden sacrifices to convert souls: "I prefer the monotony of obscure sacrifice to all ecstasies. To pick up a

pin for love can convert a soul," she was often heard to say.

Her autobiography is read and loved throughout the world. She died at age 24. She is the Patroness of the Missions.

#### OCTOBER 2 – GUARDIAN ANGELS

A day for renewing friendships and deepening them with a dear, gentle, unintrusive spirit who watches over us night and day for love of God and us.

#### OCTOBER 4 SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI (1182–1226)

This son of a rich merchant spent his youth gaily singing, while pursuing ideals that seemed quite lofty to him.

Something happened to shatter his dream. Serious illness brought the young Francis to realize the emptiness of his frolicking as leader of Assisi's youth.

Francis made a spiritual about-face, and began to tread along a way quite the opposite of the one he had been so enthusiastic about before. Yet, Just as before, a song was ever on his lips and his heart bounded even more gaily and happily.

Francis called himself "The Herald of the Great King."

- ◆ *He became poor, only that he might be Christ-like.*
- ◆ *He loved nature because it was another manifestation of the beauty of God.*
- ◆ *He did great penance (Apologizing to "Brother Body" later in his life) that he might be totally disciplined for the will of God.*
- ◆ *He was a sign of contradiction by being credibility to gospel values.*

- ◆ *He gave primacy to prayer and love for the crucified Lord and received the Stigmata the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.*

This gentle man of Assisi astounded and inspired the Church by taking the Gospel literally, not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but actually following all Jesus said and did, joyfully, without a bit of self-importance.

Francis of Assisi gave his life of total support and absolute loyalty to the Church and to peace.

He is the patron of ecology.

The blessing he places on you today is:

"May the Lord Bless you and keep you,  
Show you his face and be merciful to you,  
Turn upon you the light of his face,  
And give you peace.+"

#### OCTOBER 5 BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, C.Ss.R.

Francis Seelos was born in Fussen, a small town of Bavaria in southern Germany. As a young boy he expressed his desire to become a priest. This desire also included his goal to become a missionary to the German speaking immigrants in the United States. In order to achieve this goal he entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.

His first assignment was to work at St. Philomena parish in Pittsburgh, PA in August of 1845. Francis Seelos dedicated himself to people throughout the Pittsburgh area for nine years.

*Refer to Appendix "Pittsburgh Remembers".*

#### OCTOBER 7 – OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

According to the tradition of the Order of Preachers, recognized by many popes and accepted in the Roman Breviary, the rosary just as we know it was devised by Saint Dominic, in consequence of a vision in which our Lady revealed it to him.

No Christian is too simple or illiterate to make use of the rosary; it may be the vehicle of high contemplation as well as the simplest petition or aspiration. Though it is addressed to Mary, with an invocation of her intercession, it is chiefly a praise and thanksgiving to the Son for the divine mercy.

#### **OCTOBER 15 – SAINT TERESA OF AVILA**

The gift of God to Teresa in and through which she became holy, and left her mark on the Church and the world, is threefold: she was a woman, a contemplative and an active reformer. She was a Carmelite not so much wrapped in silence as in mystery.

She was beautiful, talented, outgoing, adaptable, affectionate, courageous, enthusiastic and totally human and womanly.

#### **OCTOBER 19 – SAINT ISAAC JOGUES, SAINT JOHN DE BREBEUF AND COMPANIONS**

Issac and Companions were Jesuit missionaries from France and became the first martyrs of the North American continent. He gave up his career of teaching in France to work among the Huron Indians in the New World.

The Iroquois beat, tortured and forced these missionaries to watch as their Huron converts were mangled and killed.

Issac was eventually tomahawked by the Mohawk Indians for having made the sign of the cross on the foreheads of some children.

#### **NOVEMBER 1 – ALL SAINTS (HOLY DAY)**

We celebrate All Saints as well as our own nameday on this date yearly.

The Church honors all saints reigning together in heaven to give thanks to God for the graces and crowns of His servants; to implore divine mercy through their intercession and to glorify God in those saints unknown to us or for whom no particular festivals are appointed.

#### **NOVEMBER 2 – ALL SOULS DAY**

A day set aside to emphasize the Church's relations with the souls in Purgatory by soliciting the divine mercy in their favor.

It is certainly a "holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead."

*2 Mach. 12:46*

#### **NOVEMBER 3 – SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES**

The son of a Spanish knight and a Panamanian woman, he became a Dominican lay brother. At a young age Martin learned the skills of medicine and surgery. He nursed the sick of the city and helped found an orphanage and a hospital for children. He died of quatern fever.

#### **NOVEMBER 13 SAINT FRANCES CABRINI (1850-1917)**

She is the first United States naturalized citizen to be canonized.

Frances always wanted to be a missionary in China since her early childhood in Italy. Instead she came to the United States and cared for Italian immigrants who were losing their faith and sense of family. She built hospitals, schools and orphanages.

She was known for her enormous faith, gift of prayer and great humility.

She died of malaria in Columbus Hospital in Chicago.

#### **NOVEMBER 21 – PRESENTATION OF MARY**

This feast is popularly associated with a story that the parents of our Lady brought her to the Temple at Jerusalem when she was three years old and left her there to be brought up.

## THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF NOVEMBER THANKSGIVING DAY

With festivity, we celebrate in praise and thanksgiving for all our gifts and blessings and we tell the stories of our lived experiences.

## ADVENT

1. Mary says "Yes" to the Father (primary level)
2. It is time of waiting and hoping, a Liturgical season that mediates salvation and deepens and strengthens the awareness of Christ's presence in His Church and its members.
3. Advent means "coming" and refers to the three-fold coming of Jesus:
  - ◆ *in the past in history*
  - ◆ *in the present in mystery (in and through others)*
  - ◆ *in the future in majesty*
4. We remember Jesus' family during Advent, i.e., Mary, Joseph, Zachary, Elizabeth, and John the Baptizer

## DECEMBER 6 – SAINT NICHOLAS, BISHOP OF MYRA

Nicholas, who lived in Asia Minor (now a part of Turkey) inherited great wealth when his parents died. He was a holy man. He used his money to help others. The stories about Bishop Nicholas' generosity to the poor and his love of children have become legendary. His feast day is December 6 and is celebrated in many parts of the world.

## DECEMBER 8 – THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Declared Patroness of the United States in 1846

Mary is queen of the Advent season, a new creation and a new Eve.

She is a woman untainted, whose response to her Creator is so total that He finds in her the fabric for His own enfleshment — His Incarnation.

From the first instant of her conception in the womb of her mother, Mary was free from original sin.

Plus IX, Bull, *INNEFABILIS DEUS* dogmatically defined this feast:

"By a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, Mary was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

*December 8, 1854*

## DECEMBER 12 – OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

In December 1531, Our Lady appeared to the gentle Aztec, Juan Diego, near Mexico City.

Hispanics whose roots are in Mexico call us to celebrate this feast. Through the intercession of this tender Mother, peace and healing may come to the troubled lands of the Americas. Our Lady of Guadalupe has been given the title "Mary, Patroness of the Americas".

## DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS

God gives us the Son, Jesus. Glory breaks on the world. It is a holy night radiant with the splendor of God/Jesus our Light.

We remember Jesus' birthday:

- ◆ *Jesus is the Son of God*
- ◆ *Jesus is God's greatest gift to us*
- ◆ *A Light that dispelled the darkness*

We give gifts to recall that Jesus is God's finest gift to us.

Celebrate Christmas as a time of renewal of Faith, Hope and Love.

The ministries of Jesus, his miracles, sacred Passion, Death and Resurrection are illumined by faith in His divinity and the love that led Him to assume our humanity.

**DECEMBER – (SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS) –  
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

A celebration on the day honoring the Holy Family. The Creator ordered the earth to bring forth life and crowned its goodness by creating a family of humankind. The Scriptures teach us the sanctity of human love and show us the value of family life.

*Colossians 3:17-21*  
*Lk. 2:41-52*

**JANUARY 1  
FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

1. the second Person became Incarnate through Mary
2. Jesus had two natures: divine and human; but He is one person — Jesus Christ
3. Mary is Mother of Jesus and thus Mother of God

Mother of God — a glorious title of one who was created in time to be Mother of the uncreated, eternal God.

**JANUARY – EPIPHANY  
SUNDAY AFTER NEW YEARS DAY**

God revealed His Son to the world by the guidance of a star. Astrologers from the East inquired about this great Light (Mt.2:1-12) which was promised in the Hebrew Scriptures, "The Lord and Ruler is coming; Kingship is his, and government and power."

*Mal. 3:1*  
*Chr. 29:12*

**JANUARY 4**

**SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON (1774-1821)**

This first natural-born saint of the United States is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She was born two years before the Declaration of Independence. Reared as a staunch Episcopalian she learned the value of prayer, Scripture and a nightly examination of conscience.

She was the belle of New York and married a handsome, wealthy businessman. She became a Catholic after her husband's death and opened a Catholic school in Baltimore to support her five children.

Elizabeth had two great devotions: abandonment to the will of God and deep devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and His mother Mary.

**JANUARY 5 – SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, C.SS.R.**

John Neumann was born in Bohemia. There were too many priests in his home diocese and he would have to wait to be ordained. So he decided to come to the United States, seek ordination and serve as a missionary among the German immigrants.

After several years Father Neumann sought the support of a religious community. He requested acceptance into the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. Within twelve years he was appointed the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. He died at the age of forty-eight, worn out with apostolic endeavors.

*Refer to Appendix "Pittsburgh Remembers"*

**JANUARY– CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM OF  
JESUS (SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY)**

The Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism by John in the Jordan River.

"He was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power" (*Acts 10:37*)

"I have formed you and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations... (*Is. 42:1-7*)

After His Baptism a voice said, "This is My beloved Son. My favor rests on Him."  
(*Mt. 3:17*)

We share this sonship and are called to follow His journey of holiness and service to others by our Baptism.

#### **JANUARY 18-25 – CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE**

An eight-day period of prayer for Christian Unity.

#### **FEBRUARY 2 – PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

Mary presented her Son Jesus in the Temple to make the ritual offering for her Purification.

The Church blesses candles for use in sacred liturgies and homes, and celebrates Jesus as Light of the World.

#### **FEBRUARY 3 – SAINT BLAISE**

The Church blesses throats as a holy prevention against diseases of the throat.

A lot of fiction crept in over Blaise's biographical details. It suffices that he is seen as one more example of the power those who have give themselves entirely to Jesus.

#### **FEBRUARY 11 – OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

This feast celebrates the tenderness of God's Mother, the Virgin Mary, for all of us on earth, and focuses on an important aspect — her Immaculate Conception.

In 1858, Our Lady appeared to fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous as she and two companions gathered firewood. Bernadette suffered much but Our Lady appeared to her seventeen times. During the sixteenth visit, Our Lady identified herself as the Immaculate Conception. After four years of investigation the Church finally stated that Bernadette's claims were credible and that Our Lady had appeared to her.

#### **LENT – ASH WEDNESDAY**

This day marks the beginning of Lent. The Church marks our foreheads with ashes to remind us of our mortality. (Ashes are from burned palms of the previous year.)

1. Jesus says "Yes" to the Father (primary level)
2. The Church celebrates Lent as a time of conversion and a preparation for Easter.
3. During Lent we try to be more like Jesus:
  - ◆ *live more unselfishly*
  - ◆ *pray more*
  - ◆ *probe accounts of Jesus as Messiah/Savior*
4. We remember Holy Week as a series of events leading up to His Sacred Passion and death.
5. We remember Jesus' sufferings and death:
  - ◆ *He told His apostles to remember Him and that His last days were to be full of sorrow and sufferings.*

#### **MARCH 3 – BLESSED KATHARINE DREXEL**

Katharine Drexel was the daughter of Drexel, a wealthy Philadelphia banker. At a young age she and her sisters were taught that it is a privilege to share God's gifts with others. Katharine wanted to care for people in the United States who were given the least share — Native Americans and African Americans. As the founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Mother Drexel spent over twenty million dollars of her own money to build and operate missions and schools.

*Refer to Appendix "Pittsburgh Remembers"*

#### **MARCH 17 – SAINT PATRICK**

Converting pagan Ireland was the outcome of a vision that called him to work there.

He was a man of action. In his apostolate of less than thirty years, Patrick converted Ireland as a whole to Christianity. He had a rocklike belief in his vocation and in the cause he had espoused. His holiness is known by the fruits of his work.

**MARCH 19**  
**SAINT JOSEPH (FOSTER FATHER OF JESUS)**

The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a "just" man, which means he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him.

The lineage of Mary's husband as the legal father of Jesus is traced in Matthew's gospel. (1:18-25)

Matthew sketches the confusion, humiliation and misery experienced by Joseph when he recognizes that Mary is pregnant.

This just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God — in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth and in years of quiet faith and courage.

**MARCH 25 – THE ANNUNCIATION**

The Church pauses during Lent to reflect on the glory of humankind — the incarnation of the Son of God in the womb of a sinless woman — Mary.

Gabriel, an angel of the Most High greeted her, "Hail Mary," and invited her to be the Mother of God.

*Lk. 1:26-38*

**HOLY THURSDAY**

We celebrate the Last Supper and the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the institution of the priesthood.

On this evening Jesus experienced His Agony in the Garden.

*Mark 14:1-52*

**GOOD FRIDAY**

This day marks the memory of Jesus being crucified and dying in order to save us.

*Mark 14:23-47*

**THE EASTER VIGIL**

The Easter Vigil is the night before Easter, when the Church celebrates new life in Christ and the Resurrection of Jesus, the Light of the World.

**EASTER – JESUS LIVES FOREVER**

We remember and celebrate Jesus' new life:

- ◆ *He was raised from death*
- ◆ *He is alive now and forever*
- ◆ *He is with us in His Spirit now.*

**EASTER TIME**

The Easter Triduum of the passion and Resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire Liturgical Year. What Sunday is to the week, the solemnity of Easter is to the year.

*N.C.D., Par. 144*

**APRIL 17 – SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA**

Kateri was the daughter of a Mohawk Chief who lived near what is today Auriesville, New York, and, later, in Quebec, Canada. When she was only four years old both of her parents died of small pox. After that she was called Tekakwitha, which means "she who feels her way," because the small pox affected her sight. She was baptized on Easter Sunday.

### **MAY 1 – SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER**

This feast was probably instituted in response to the “May Day” celebrations for workers sponsored by communists, although the relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers has a long history. Jesus is identified as the “carpenter’s son.” He was obviously trained by Joseph and the Church uses that title to emphasize his humanity and to remind us that we are like God not only in thinking and loving but also in creating.

### **MAY 9 – BLESSED MARY THERESA GERHARDINGER, S.S.N.D.**

Caroline Gerhardinger was born in a small town in Bavaria. When she was a young student, the political situation caused the suppression of all religious in parts of Europe. She held in her heart a dream to re-institute religious life as she remembered it from her early schooling. She and some friends under the guidance of the local bishop founded the School Sisters of Notre Dame to teach poor girls of that time. The community developed and spread throughout the world, and now numbers 5,000 Sisters.

*Refer to Appendix “Pittsburgh Remembers”*

### **ASCENSION**

Forty days after His Resurrection Jesus blessed His apostles and ascended to heaven.

*Lk. 24:50-53*

### **PENTECOST**

Fifty days after Easter the apostles were assembled in one room. They were filled with the Holy Spirit as Jesus promised.

*Acts 2:1-13*

### **MAY 31 – CELEBRATE THE VISITATION OF MARY TO ELIZABETH**

In obedience to the Angel Gabriel, Mary set out to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is pregnant by God’s favor and would give birth to Saint John

the Baptizer. Elizabeth greeted her visitor with “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” (*Lk. 1:42*) ...and Mary responds with the “Magnificat.” (*Lk.1:46-54*)

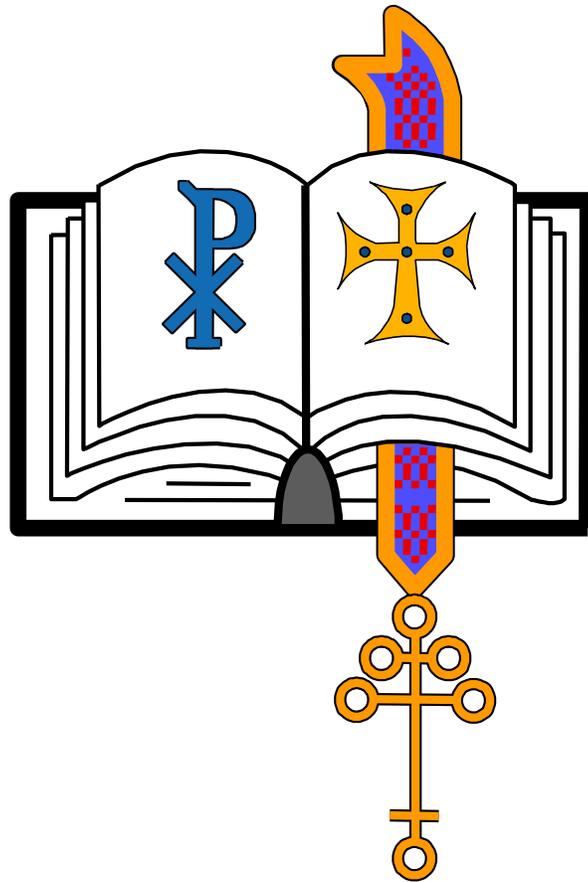
### **JUNE 3 – SAINT CHARLES LAWANGA AND COMPANIONS**

One of 22 Ugandan martyrs, Charles is the Patron of Youth and Catholic Action. He protected his fellow pages from the homosexual demands of the Bogandan. He instructed them in the Catholic faith during their imprisonment for refusing those demands.

### **AUGUST 15 – ASSUMPTION (HOLY DAY)**

“Saint Mary’s Day” par excellence, celebrates her honor; it is the birthday of her greatness and glory and the crowning of all the virtues of her whole life which we admire singly in her other festivals.

# APPENDIX IV



*Older Students might be enriched by contact with the following local treasures*

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THE DIOCESE

A visit to St. Paul Cathedral, 108 N. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, (412) 621-4951.

A visit to the relic collection and Stations of the Cross at St. Anthony Chapel, Troy Hill, (412) 322-2183.

A visit to diocesan archival displays for special events at Synod Hall, 125 N. Craig Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, (412) 621-6217.

A visit to St. Paul Seminary, 2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, (412) 921-5800.

## A HISTORIC CHURCH BUILDING IN EACH DEANERY

### ***Beaver Deanery***

St. Cecilia Church, Rochester – 1837  
(SS. Peter and Paul, Beaver – 1830,  
Oldest Parish)

### ***Butler Deanery***

St. Peter Church, Butler – 1821

### ***Central Deanery***

St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland – 1834

### ***Greene Deanery***

St. Ann Church, Waynesburg – 1839

### ***Lawrence Deanery***

St. Agatha Church, Ellwood City – 1895  
(St. James the Apostle, New Bedford –  
1845, Oldest parish)

### ***North Central Deanery***

St. James Church, Wilksburg – 1869  
(St. Joseph, Verona – 1886, Oldest Parish)

### ***North East Deanery***

St. Mary Church, Sharpsburg – 1917  
(St. Mary Assumption, Glenshaw – 1840, Oldest  
Parish)

### ***North Side Deanery***

St. Peter Church, North Side – 1871  
(Most Holy Name of Jesus, Troy Hill – 1868,  
Oldest Parish)

### ***North West Deanery***

St. Alphonsus Church, Wexford – 1840

### ***South Central Deanery***

St. Mary Czestochowa Church, McKeesport –  
1893

### ***South East Deanery***

St. Agnes Church, West Mifflin – 1867

### ***South Hills Deanery***

St. Anne Church, Castle Shannon – 1889

### ***South Pittsburgh Deanery***

St. Mary of the Mount Church, Mt. Washington  
– 1873  
St. Wendelin Church, Carrick – 1873

### ***South West Deanery***

St. Philip Church, Crafton – 1839

### ***Washington East Deanery***

St. Agnes Church, Richeyville – 1867

### ***Washington West Deanery***

Immaculate Conception Church, Washington –  
1855

*Many other churches, contemporary or historic, in each deanery are lessons in themselves in terms of church art and architecture, furnishings, stained glass windows and statuary.*

## LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

A visit to your local parish Catholic cemetery or area Catholic cemetery to talk about the communion of saints, beliefs about after-life and parish ancestors in the faith.

If your parish was formed from another church in the deanery, a visit to the Mother Church if possible might be appropriate.

A visit to the monastery or motherhouse of religious orders associated with your parish or deanery. Consult the current *DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH OFFICIAL CATHOLIC DIRECTORY*.

#### OTHER RITES

A visit to Churches of other rites in your local area, such as the Byzantine Rite.

#### ECUMENICAL OPPORTUNITIES

A visit to your local synagogue or non-Catholic Church.

Participate in events that honor the religious and cultural heritage of your parish.

#### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Visits to local nursing homes, soup kitchens, shelters if age appropriate.

Consult the current *PLANNING CALENDAR* and *SERVICE DIRECTORY* from the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry for various service ideas, 601 Flaugherly Run Road, (412) 264-9530.

#### DRAMA

Veronica Veil for older students, Lenten Season, Prince of Peace Parish, South Side.

Many local parishes sponsor Living Stations presented by their parish youth groups. Check at deanery meeting to determine which parishes offer such events.

#### SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT FOR STUDENTS AND ADULT CATECHISTS

Consult the *DIRECTORY OF RETREAT CENTERS CATHOLIC DIOCESES OF PITTSBURGH AND GREENSBURG*

- ◆ *Call ahead to any of the above listed facilities to make direct advance arrangements and to inquire into the possibility of a guided tour or participation in events.*