

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM CONCEPTS

Grade 4

By the end of Grade 4, students will have an age-appropriate understanding of the concepts in each of the following areas:

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

1. God is living and is “above all things” (CCC# 206-209)
2. God is merciful, gracious and loving (CCC# 210-211)
3. God is Truth and Love (CCC# 215-221)
4. Believing in God has five consequences (CCC# 222-227)
 - a. It means acknowledging God’s greatness and majesty
 - b. It means living in thanksgiving for all God has done for us
 - c. It means knowing the unity and dignity of all people
 - d. It means making good use of created things
 - e. It means trusting in God in every circumstance
5. Every person is made in God’s image and likeness (CCC# 356-361)
6. The openness of the human person to truth and beauty, the sense of moral goodness, the freedom and the voice of conscience, the longings for the infinite and happiness are all signs of his/her spiritual soul (CCC# 33)
7. In every human heart is the desire for happiness, which finds its ultimate realization in union with God (CCC# 27, 30, 33)
8. Original Sin and the human struggle with evil (386-390, 396-409) God’s promise of Redemption: The Incarnation (CCC# 410-478)
9. Jesus’ Public Life and proclamation of the Kingdom of God give Christians guidance in the moral life (CCC# 535-560)
10. Jesus’ Redemptive Death and Resurrection (CCC# 599-655)
11. Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God to humanity, and Christ reveals to humanity what it means to be human (CCC# 520-521)
12. The Holy Spirit inspires faith and gives us the gifts we need to live a Christian life (CCC# 683, 687-688, 733-741)
13. The Church is Christ’s instrument for our salvation (CCC# 774-776)
14. The last things: Heaven, Purgatory, Hell, the Last Judgment (CCC# 1020-1050)

15. Mary as a model of Christian faith and moral living (CCC# 494)

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

1. The sacraments deepen our participation in God's life and helps us to be just and loving persons (CCC# 1212)
2. The fruit of Baptism includes the forgiveness of Original Sin and all personal sins, the birth into new life by which one becomes an adoptive son/daughter of the Father, member of the Body of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit (CCC# 1263-1270)
3. Through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit deepens the grace of Baptism and strengthens Christians to spread and defend the faith by word and actions as true witnesses of Christ (CCC# 1302-1303)
4. The fruit of receiving Holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus. It preserves, increases, and renews the life of grace received at Baptism. It is the Christian's nourishment on the journey of faith (CCC# 1391)
5. The Eucharist deepens the unity of the Church and reminds Catholics of their commitment to the poor (CCC# 1396-1397)
6. The Sacrament of Penance restores us to God's grace and joins us with God in intimate friendship. The spiritual consolation of confession includes peace and serenity of conscience. The Sacrament of Penance reconciles us with the Church (CCC# 1468-1469)
7. Through Anointing of the Sick people receives the strength and the gift of uniting themselves more closely to Christ's Passion. Suffering, a consequence of original sin, acquires a new meaning; it become a participation in the saving work of Jesus (CCC# 1521)

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

1. The dignity of the human person is based in his/her creation in the image and likeness of God. Every person has the right to be recognized as a free and responsible being. All owe to each other the duty of respect (CCC# 1700, 1738)
2. The human person has a spiritual and immortal soul and, from conception, is destined for holiness and eternal happiness ("beatitude") with God (CCC# 1703, 1709, 1716-1724)
3. Through reason, every person can recognize the voice of God that urges him or her to "do what is good and avoid what is evil." Everyone is obliged to obey this law, which makes itself heard in conscience and is fulfilled in the love of God and neighbor (CCC# 1705)
4. Humanity, enticed by the Evil One, abused the freedom given it at the beginning of history and succumbed to this temptation and did what was evil (CCC# 1707)

5. By his Passion, Christ delivered us from Satan and from sin. He merited for us life in the Holy Spirit and his grace restores what sin damaged in us (CCC# 1708)
6. The New Law or the Law of the Gospel is the perfection here on earth of the divine law, natural and revealed. It is the work of Christ and is expressed particularly in the Sermon on the Mount. It is also the work of the Holy Spirit and through him it becomes the interior law of charity (CCC# 1965)
7. Since they express man's fundamental duties toward God and towards his neighbor, the Ten Commandments reveal grave obligations. They oblige always and everywhere. They bring to light the essential duties, and therefore, the fundamental rights inherent in the nature of the human person (CCC# 2070-2071)
8. The Holy Spirit gives us grace to help us grow in spiritual freedom so that we may collaborate with him in his work in the Church and in the world (CCC# 1742)
9. God gave people the power of freedom so that by their own choice, they might seek and love God and attain the holiness and happiness for which they were made (CCC# 1730)
10. It is possible that human persons can choose between good and evil, and thus of growing in perfection or of failing and sinning. This freedom characterizes properly human acts. It is the basis of praise or blame, merit or reproach (CCC# 1732)
11. Sin is an offense against God and is a failure in genuine love for God and neighbor. It wounds the nature of the human person and injures unity among all people. It has been defined as "an utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law" (CCC# 1849)
12. Mortal sin destroys charity in the heart of a person by a grave violation of God's law; it turns a person away from God, who is his ultimate end and his beatitude, by preferring an inferior good to him. For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must together be met: grave matter, full knowledge, and deliberate consent. The forgiveness of mortal sin necessitates a new initiative of God's mercy and a conversion of heart, which is normally accomplished within the setting of the sacrament of reconciliation (CCC# 1855-1861)
13. Venial sin weakens charity, demonstrates a disordered affection for created goods, and impedes the soul's progress in the exercise of virtues and moral good. It disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin. It does not set us in direct opposition to the will and friendship of God; it does not break the covenant with God. With God's grace it is humanly reparable (CCC# 1863)
14. Freedom makes a person responsible for his/her actions to the extent that they are voluntary. This responsibility can be diminished or even nullified by ignorance, inadvertence, duress, fear, habit, inordinate attachments, and other psychological or social factors (CCC# 1734-1735)
15. The morality of human acts depends on the object chosen; the intention for the act; and the circumstances of the action (CCC# 1749-1754)
16. The ends do not justify the means; one may not do evil so that good may result from it (CCC# 1753-1756)

17. There are acts which, in and of themselves, independently of circumstances or intentions, are always gravely illicit by reason of their object; such as blasphemy and perjury, murder and adultery (CCC# 1756)
18. Conscience is a judgment of reason, in union with the will of God, whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he/she is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed. People are obliged to follow faithfully what they know to be just and right (CCC# 1778)
19. The saints serve as models of Christian holiness and morality (CCC# 1717)
20. As part of their moral education, students should be instructed in the following spiritual treasures of the Catholic faith.
 - a. The Great Commandments: Love of God and love of neighbor (CCC# 2055)
 - b. The human virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance (CCC# 1804-1809)
 - c. The theological virtues of faith, hope, and love (CCC# 1812-1829)
 - d. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord (CCC# 1830-1831)
 - e. The Sermon on the Mount, especially the Beatitudes (CCC# 1716-1717)
 - f. The Ten Commandments (CCC# 2072)
 - g. The Precepts of the Church: Attendance at Mass on Sundays, confession of sins at least once a year, reception of Holy Communion at least during the Easter season; observance of the Holy Days of Obligation; and, observation of prescribed days of fasting and abstinence (CCC# 2041-2043)

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

1. In addition to the prayers they have already learned, Grade 4 students will begin to learn the following:
 - a. The Apostles' Creed
 - b. Prayer to the Holy Spirit
 - c. The Rosary
 - d. Stations of the Cross
 - e. Prayer to the Holy Spirit
 - f. The Memorare
2. Students will compose prayers of praise, thanksgiving, remorse, and petition.
3. Celebrations of the Liturgical Year will continue in class and with the parish community. These should include Marian feasts/holy days and other saints' feasts.