

MISSION STATEMENT:

Each person in every Catholic school in the Diocese of Kalamazoo will know that God loves her/him unconditionally and is invited to make a personal response in faith to God's invitation to friendship and union with Him both now and for all eternity.

THE TWELVE TRUTHS:

1. God exists in all eternity in an eternal exchange of love – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and has revealed Himself in every age and era.
2. God created us in love to participate in His divine life by being in friendship and union with Him.
3. Through sin we rejected God's love, choosing to trust in ourselves rather than in Him. However, God reaches out to bring us back into right relationship with Him.
4. In the fullness of time, the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, Who maintained His Divinity while becoming a man like us in all things but sin.
5. We again rejected God's love by denying, mocking, and crucifying His Son Jesus Christ. But this provided redemption and gained us the possibility to be reconciled with God.
6. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ overcame the power of Satan and death, restored what had been lost by sin, and merited a new life for us which we can receive through faith, repentance, and the Sacrament of Baptism.
7. Jesus Christ established His one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church as the sign and instrument of our friendship and union with God.
8. Jesus Christ gave the Church seven sacraments as external signs of grace by which His divine life is given to us. Every sacrament contains the power of Christ, but in the Eucharist Christ gives us His very Self – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.
9. Jesus Christ provided His mother, Mary, as our mother and gave us His brothers and sisters, the saints, as our family members.
10. After ascending to heaven, Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit to vivify, empower, and sanctify us.
11. In cooperation with His grace, we believe and trust in God and His revelation, love God and neighbor, repent from our sins, live lives of prayerful obedience, accept the teachings of His Church, and give ourselves in service to Him and to others.
12. Jesus Christ will return again in judgment and welcome into eternal union and communion those who believe, trust, love, repent, pray, obey, accept, and serve.

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COURSE ONE

First Semester – Freshman Year

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN SCRIPTURE

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapter	✓	Notes:
I.I HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT GOD?						
I.I.1	Identify, in their own life, a personal longing for God and a societal longing for God.	2,				
I.I.2	Distinguish how God is revealed through natural and divine revelation.	1,4,				
I.I.3	Compare and contrast the ways that God is revealed through natural and divine revelation.	1,11,				
I.I.4	Explain how Jesus Christ is the full and definitive revelation of God.	4,				
I.I.5	Justify how sacred scripture is an outgrowth of God’s revelation through Tradition.	7,				
I.I.6	Explain how Apostolic tradition connects us to the person of Jesus.	7,				
I.I.7	Describe how Jesus Christ continues to speak through time in the voice of the Magisterium.	7				
I.I.8	Identify external evidences for the truthfulness of divine revelation; miracles, prophesies, life of the church, and personal fulfillment in Christ.	1, 2				
I.I.9	Define and identify the criteria for determining an authentic miracle.					
I.I.10	Categorize the three different classes of miracles.					
I.II ABOUT SACRED SCRIPTURE						
I.II.1	Identify the Bible as inspired text; authored by God and written by man.	7,				
I.II.2	Describe what the Catholic understanding of the inerrancy of scripture is and what it is not.	7,				
I.II.3	Summarize how the Bible came to be.	7,				
I.II.4	Explain the use of the Bible in the liturgical and devotional life of the Church.	8,				

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapter	✓	Notes:
I.II.5	Utilize Sacred Scripture in a variety of ways for personal and communal prayer	11,12,				
I.III.1	Explain the role of the teaching office of the Church in the authentic interpretation of scripture.	7,				
I.III.2	Identify the appropriate criteria for interpreting Sacred Scripture correctly.	7,				
I.III.3	Identify the four senses of scripture (literal, allegorical, moral, and anagogical).	7,				
I.III.4	Differentiate between religious truth, scientific truth, and historical truth. Explain why they cannot be in conflict.	7,				
I.IV.1	Identify the major sections of the Old Testament	7,				
I.IV.2	Explain how the Old Testament foreshadows the coming of Jesus.	7,				
I.IV.3	Explain the differences between Catholic and Protestant Old Testaments.	7,				
I.IV.4	Identify the major sections of the New Testament	7,				
I.IV.5	Demonstrate the unity between the Old and New Testament.	7,				
I.V.1	Explain why the Gospels occupy the central place in Scripture.	7				
I.V.2	Illustrate how the Gospels lead us to accept Jesus Christ in faith and apply His teachings to their lives.	11,12,4				
I.V.3	Name and explain the synoptic Gospels	7				
I.V.4	Compare and contrast the Gospel of John with the synoptic Gospels.	7				
I.V.5	Explain how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament.	4				
I.V.6	Explain how the Spirit lead the church through the 1 st century	10				

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapter	✓	Notes:
1.	Is it true that Catholics do not use or read the Bible?					
2.	Isn't the Bible just another piece of literature?					
3.	Is the Bible always literally true?					
4.	Isn't the Bible about the past? Why do people today think it applies to them?					
5.	Why do Catholics maintain beliefs and practices that are not explicitly in the Bible?					

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COURSE TWO

Second Semester - Freshman Year

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapter	✓	Notes:
II.I GOD AND REVELATION						
II.I.1	Describe what faith is and what it is not.	11,12,2				
II.I.2	Describe the ways in which faith in Jesus Christ leads to discipleship	2,11,				
II.I.3	Distinguish between faith and religion; describe their relationship to each other	2,11,				
II.I.4	Summarize how the fullness of revelation is reflected in the life and teaching of the Catholic Church	7				
II.II JESUS CHRIST'S REVELATION ABOUT GOD						
II.II.1	Identify some of the attributes that Jesus reveals to us about God as Father, primarily that God is love.	1,4,				
II.II.2	Identify how Jesus reveals the Trinity	1,				
II.II.3	Compare and contrast the three persons of the Trinity and explain their relationship to one another	1,				
II.II.4	Summarize the struggles the Church experienced in defining its understanding of the Trinity to maintain the apostolic faith	1,				
II.II.5	Describe Mary's role in the life and prayer of the Church	9,				
II.II.6	Explain the four Marian dogmas (Immaculate Conception, Assumption, Ever-Virgin, Mother of God)	9,				

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapter	✓	Notes:
II.III THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION						
II.III.1	Define the Incarnation	4,				
II.III.2	Describe why the Incarnation is a mystery	4,				
II.III.3	Define the hypostatic union	4,				
II.III.4	Give examples of how Jesus is both fully human and fully divine	4,				
II.IV JESUS CHRIST TEACHES US ABOUT OURSELVES						
II.IV.1	Describe how Jesus reveals what it means to be human and how to relate to one another	4,2,				
II.VI.2	List some of the implications of Christ’s redemption for humanity to choose good and resist evil	3,6,5				
II.IV.3	Explain how Jesus Christ reveals the Father to us and who we are as children of God	1,2,4,5,				
II.IV.4	Articulate our universal call to holiness in the Church	12,11				
II.IV.5	Articulate the Church’s teaching on the Four Last Things	12,				
CHALLENGES						
1.	How can we know that God really exists?					
2.	There are some who see human suffering and conclude that God does not care about us. Why do we say that he loves us deeply?					
3.	How can people say that God is good if suffering and evil are present in the world?					
4.	Does God really want us to be happy?					

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapter	✓	Notes:
5.	There are some who dismiss God’s revelation and say that the beliefs and doctrines taught by the Church have been made up by members of the Church. How can we be sure that what the Catholic Church teaches has come from God?					
6.	How do we as Catholics answer questions about the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in the life and prayer of the Church?					

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COURSE THREE

First Semester - Sophomore Year

THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST (THE PASCHAL MYSTERY)

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapters	✓	Notes:
III.I THE GOODNESS OF CREATION AND OUR FALL FROM GRACE						
III.I.1	List and understand our Catholic beliefs that derive from the creation narrative	2,		1		
III.I.2	Describe how creation is good and a gift from God	1,2,		1		
III.I.3	Explain how we are the summit of God's creation and detail what the implications are for our daily life	2,		1		
III.I.4	Describe God's plan for humanity based on the creation narrative	2,		1		
III.I.5	Define what is meant by original sin and summarize its consequences	3,		1		
III.II THE PROMISE OF THE A MESSIAH						
III.II.1	Demonstrate from Genesis how God promises to redeem the world despite the escalation of sin	3		1, 2		
III.II.2	Illustrate key passages in the Old Testament that express the people's longing for the fulfillment of God's promise	3		1, 2		
III.II.3	Contrast false notions of the Messiah with Jesus as Messiah, <i>(for example: restoration of earthly kingdom vs. my kingdom is not of this world)</i>	4,5		2, 3		
III.II.4	Identify key passages from the Gospels that illustrate how Jesus fulfilled God's promise for a Messiah	4,6		3, 4, 5		
III.III CHRIST OUR LIGHT: REDEMPTION UNFOLDS						
III.III.1	Explain how certain events in the life of Christ shed light on his Paschal mission (luminous mysteries)	6		3, 4		
III.IV REDEMPTION THROUGH PASCHAL MYSTERY						
III.IV.1	Outline the passion and death of Jesus and explain the importance for our redemption.	5		1, 3, 4		

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapters	✓	Notes:
III.IV.2	Articulate how the promise of redemption is accomplished in the Resurrection.	6		3, 4		
III.IV.3	Illustrate how the Ascension, Pentecost and Assumption reveal mission and hope to us, in the light of our redemption	7,6,10		4, 5		
III.V MORAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER						
III.V.1	Articulate what redemption is, why it is necessary, and what the implications are for a believer	11,5,6,3		3, 4, 6, 7		
III.V.2	Explain the universal call to holiness in the context of God's plan.	11		5, 6, 7		
III.V.3	Develop examples of living as a disciple	11		5, 6, 7, Epilogue		
III.VI PRAYER IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER,						
III.VI.1	Explain prayer as communication with God in three Persons	2		3, 7, Epilogue		
III.VI.2	Defend why prayer is essential to the life of a believer in order to sustain a vital (personal) relationship with God	2		3,7, Epilogue		
III.VI.3	Show how Scripture can be a source and guide for prayer	2		7		
III.VI.4	Identify the expressions and forms of prayer	2		7, Epilogue		
III.VI.5	Develop approaches to deal with the obstacles to prayer	2		6, 7, Epilogue		
III.VI.6	Summarize how the Lord's Prayer forms a basis for the Church's understanding of prayer	2		7		
CHALLENGES						
1.	Justify why God the Father would allow his Son Jesus to suffer and die the way he did?			1, 3, 4		
2.	Describe how suffering helps us to appreciate and participate more fully in the Paschal Mystery?			3, 4		
3.	Is prayer really effective?			7, Epilogue		
4.	What about when God doesn't answer my prayer?			4, 7, Epilogue		

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapters	✓	Notes:
5.	Why isn't just being a good person enough?			5, 6, 7, Epilogue		
6.	Isn't making sacrifices and putting up with suffering a sign of weakness?			3, 4,		
7.	Could Jesus have exercised free will and rejected his cross?			3, 4		

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COURSE FOUR

Second Semester - Sophomore Year

JESUS CHRIST’S MISSION CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapter	✓	Notes:
IV .I CHRIST ESTABLISHED HIS ONE CHURCH TO CONTINUE HIS PRESENCE AND HIS WORK						
IV.I.1	Explain how the Church is a fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham	7,				
IV.I.2	Identify scriptures that show the origins and structure of the early Church	7,8				
IV.I.3	Explain how the Holy Spirit revealed the Church on Pentecost (CCC 767-768)	10,				
IV.I.4	Explain the Holy Spirit’s role in the Church from the Apostles, the Magisterium (Church Councils), and charisms in which the Holy Spirit imbues the Church	11,10,				
IV.I.5	Identify how the Holy Spirit worked through Peter and Paul in forming and guiding the mission of the Church	10,7				
IV.I.6	Be able to articulate the Great Commission and identify how he/she respond to that commission	11,				
IV.I.7	Identify the work of the Spirit in your life and how it supports the mission of the Church	10,11,				
IV.I.8	Defend how Christ founded His Church on the authority of Peter and that continues through the papacy.	10,7,				
IV.II IMAGES OF THE CHURCH (Partial Insights of Church Sharing in Trinitarian Communion)						
IV.II.1	Identify and explain types (prefigurements) of the Church in the Old Testament.	4,				Combined with IV.II.2
IV.II.2	Identify and explain images of the Church used in the New Testament	7,				Combined with IV.II.1
IV.II.3	Identify and explain images of the Church rooted in Scripture and developed in Tradition. <i>(Ref. the works of Avery Cardinal Dulles)</i>	7,				
IV. III THE MARKS OF THE CHURCH						
IV.III. 1	Name and explain the four marks of the Church					

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapter	✓	Notes:
One						
IV.III. 1a	Identify the source of unity within the Church (Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit)					
IV.III. 1b	Identify examples of multiplicity of peoples, cultures, and liturgical traditions while maintaining unity (<i>E.g., World Youth Day, Ecumenical Councils, Rites of the Church</i>)					
IV.III. 1c	Describe how the Church is visibly and tangibly united in the world (e.g., charity, hierarchy, worship)					
IV.III. 1d	Explain how Church Councils have been called forth by the Spirit in response to disunity, as a result of heresies and schism in the Church					
IV.III. 1e	Recount the complaints and proposals from the Reformers, and relate how the Church responded with the Council of Trent through Vatican II to preserve unity					
IV.III. 1f	Give an example of a non-Catholic religious community, with whom we are in dialogue, and explain what we have in common and what divides us					
Holy						
IV.III.2	Identify the source of holiness within the Church (God is all holy)					
IV.III. 2a	Identify how the Holy Spirit sanctifies the Church through examples of: Mary, Saints, religious orders and movements, and universities					
Catholic						
IV.III.3	Identify the universal mission of the Church rooted in Christ's mission to the apostles					
IV.III.3a	Explain how salvation comes through the Church for all people, even non-Christians.					
Apostolic						

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapter	✓	Notes:
IV.III.4	Explain the life of the Church reflects its roots in the teaching and ministry of the apostles.					
IV.III.4a	Defend the value of apostolic succession throughout Church history.					
IV. IV THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD						
IV.IV.1	Identify the purpose and mission of the Church in the world					
IV.IV.2	Identify various vocational roles in the Church and how they serve the mission of the Church					
IV.IV.3	Diagram and explain the hierarchy of the Church and the relationships within					
IV.IV.4	Defend the doctrine of infallibility¹ and indefectibility²					
IV.IV.4a	Identify the modes of infallibility (i.e., Papal, Conciliar, Ordinary)					
V.I IMPLICATIONS IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER						
IV.V.1	Defend the necessity of salvation by Christ through His Church					
IV.V.2	Explain the ways in which Jesus Christ enriches us through the Church.					
IV.V.3	Explain the connection between the experience of the Church's prayer (participation in) and your personal faith journey					Combine with IV.V.5
IV.V.4	Demonstrate the connection between membership in the Church and the call to evangelization					

¹ The gift of the Holy Spirit, which gives the Church the ability to teach faith and morals without error.

² The Church will always teach the gospel of Christ without error even in spite of the defects of her members, both ordained and lay.

Code	Primary Objective	Twelve Truths	Cross Reference	Chapter	✓	Notes:
IV.V.5	Explain why full, conscious and actual participation in the Eucharistic liturgy is necessary for the Christian life					Combine with IV.V.3
IV.V.6	Compare and contrast the sanctifying and governing offices of the Church					
CHALLENGES						
1.	Aren't all religions equally valid?	s				
2.	Isn't the Church hypocritical in telling other people to be holy and avoid sin when many Catholics, including clergy, are guilty of terrible wrongs?					
3.	Why do we believe the Pope is infallible when there have been so many sinful and corrupt Pope's throughout history?					
4.	Who needs organized religion?					
5.	How can the Church say that its teaching is unchanging when it has changed other teachings?					
6.	Why does the Church teach so many things that are explicitly not in the bible?					