

Curriculum Guidelines/Standards and Performance Indicators for  
Grade Eight Religion

**CREED – WHAT WE BELIEVE**

**DOMAIN 1: GOD: FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT**

**Standard 1: To understand the human need for God based on revelation and faith**

- 1.1 Describe ways God has revealed himself to us.
- 1.2 Identify the ways Jesus, Mary and the saints respond to God's revelation.
- 1.3 Describe our part in sharing in Jesus' mission of salvation for all.

**Standard 2: To recognize the Trinity as the central mystery of the faith, and God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

- 2.1 Practice ways and places that the sign of the cross may be used.
- 2.2 Identify the three distinct members of the Trinity.
- 2.3 Describe the role of each person in the Trinity.
- 2.4 Illustrate the connection of the Holy Trinity with various aspects of our Catholic faith.
- 2.5 Express a basic understanding of doctrine in light of the Creed.

**DOMAIN 2: CHURCH: ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC**

**Standard 3: To understand the origin, mission, structure, community, and membership of the Church**

- 3.1 Identify who consists of the Communion of Saints.
- 3.2 Recognize and define the marks of the Church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic
- 3.3 Define dogma and share an example of a dogma.
- 3.4 Define the Magisterium and its purpose.

**DOMAIN 3: REVELATION, SCRIPTURE, AND FAITH**

**Standard 4: To be able to recognize Scripture as God's inspired word.**

- 4.1 Explain what is meant by Divine Inspiration.
- 4.2 Explain how Scripture is one of the visible elements of the Church

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### **Standard 5: to know the major divisions of the Bible, the chief persons in biblical history, and major biblical themes from the Old and New Testaments**

- 5.1 Be able to locate scripture references that are the basis for traditional Catholic prayer: (Non-Inclusive List)
- 5.2 Our Father (Luke 11: 1-4 and Matthew 6: 9-13)
  - a. Hail Mary (Luke 1: 28, 42)
  - b. Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-55)
- 5.3 Label the major divisions of the Bible.
- 5.4 List the patriarchs of the Old Testament.
- 5.5 Identify the major theme of the Old Testament.
- 5.6 Explain how Jesus is the major theme of the New Testament.

### **DOMAIN 4: CHURCH HISTORY**

#### **Standard 6: To become familiar with the central stories, key events, and major figures that have shaped the history and development of the Church over time as appropriate for the student's grade level.**

- 6.1 Explore the beginnings of the Church and its expansion.
- 6.2 Identify major periods in Church History:
  - a. Christians of the Roman Empire
  - b. Christians in the Middle Ages
  - c. Church in crisis (1305-1517)
  - d. Church in reform and renewal (1517-1648)
  - e. Church in a changing world (1648-present day)
  - f. Church in America
  - g. Church after Vatican II
  - h. Church in relation today to the world
  - i. Church in relation today to the Jewish community
- 6.3 Examine the purpose of the Councils of the Church. ( an overview)
- 6.4 Identify the changes in the Church following Vatican II.
- 6.5 Describe major clerical and lay figures in each of the major periods.

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**SACRAMENTS – HOW WE CELEBRATE**

**DOMAIN 5: LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS**

**Standard 7: To be knowledgeable about the Church’s liturgical life in terms of liturgical feasts, seasons, liturgical symbols, religious practices, and concepts of prayer**

- 7.1 Explain how to participate at the celebration of the Mass.
- 7.2 Recall ways to observe the Lord’s Day.
- 7.3 Identify the Holy Days of Obligation in CCC and in the United States.
- 7.4 Describe the cycles of the Liturgical Year as the Church’s celebration of the Paschal Mystery.
- 7.5 Share a liturgical custom/practice for each liturgical season.
  - a. Advent- a season of both hope and penance of Christ  
Reflect upon the Sunday scripture readings that focus on Jesus coming to us on Christmas, now and at the second coming
    - 1. Use Advent wreath as part of this preparation
  - i. Reflect on the names of Jesus
    - 2. O Antiphons
  - b. Christmas-the manifestation of the Savior for all people
    - i. Blessing the Nativity scene
    - ii. The Solemnity of the Epiphany
  - c. Ordinary time-a celebration of Jesus’ life, teachings, miracles and parables
    - 1. Feast of Christ the King
    - 2. Feasts of Mary
    - 3. Feasts of Saints
  - d. Lent-preparation for the celebration of Easter
    - i. Pray the Stations of the Cross
    - ii. Observe Lent through prayer, fasting and almsgiving
  - e. Triduum- a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world
    - i. Study and experience the events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday/ Easter Sunday
  - f. Easter- celebration of the resurrection of Christ
    - i. Recall that the waters of Baptism symbolize the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Standard 8: To know and understand the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace**

- 8.1 Explain how Jesus is sacrament.
- 8.2 Describe each of the seven sacraments and relate them to life experiences.
- 8.3 Describe a grace given in the celebration of each sacrament.

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**CHRISTIAN LIVING – HOW WE LIVE**

**DOMAIN 6: LIFE IN CHRIST: PERSONAL MORALITY AND CATHOLIC  
SOCIAL TEACHING**

**Standard 9: To be knowledgeable about the teaching of Jesus and the Church as  
the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.**

9.1 Explain how we are called to witness to Jesus by:

- a. Caring for God's people
- b. Promoting peace
- c. Respecting all life
- d. Acknowledging basic human rights
- e. Being stewards of God's creation
- f. Evangelizing by word and action

9.2 Identify the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

**Standard 10: To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for  
decision-making.**

10.1 Explain how the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes are guides for living a  
moral life

10.2 Identify the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirits and how they apply to our lives.

10.3 Give examples of situations when a good conscience helps us make good moral  
decisions.

10.4 Explore concepts of human sexuality:

- a. Choice of relationships
- b. Respect of life at conception
- c. Danger of Pornography
- d. Modesty in dress and behavior
- e. Contemporary lifestyles
- f. Guidelines for choosing media
- g. Chastity

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**PRAYER – HOW WE PRAY**

**DOMAIN 7: PRAYER/RELIGIOUS PRACTICES**

**Standard 11: To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.**

11.1 Model different forms of prayer: Traditional, Meditative, Scriptural, and Spontaneous

- a. Lectio divina
- b. Guided meditation
- c. Reflective writing
- d. Stations of the Cross
- e. Litany
- f. Holy hour
- g. Liturgy of the Hours

11.2 Identify the five main types of prayer: Blessing, Petition, and Intercession. Thanksgiving and Praise and create one of each.

11.3 Maintain traditional prayers

- a. Our Father
- b. Hail Mary
- c. Glory Be
- d. Morning Offering
- e. Prayers before and after meals
- f. Act of Contrition
- g. Apostles Creed
- h. Nicene Creed
- i. The Rosary
- j. The Memorare
- k. Prayer to the Holy Spirit

11.4 Experience other tradition prayers

- a. The Angleus
- b. Prayer for Vocations
- c. The Magnificat
- d. Psalms 20,21,23
- e. Acts of Faith, Hope and Love
- f. O Antiphons
- g. Stations of the Cross
- h. Litanies
- i. Novenas
- j. Prayer to St. Francis
- k. Prayer for Peace and Justice

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### 11.5 Maintain Catholic Religious Beliefs and Practices

- a. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- b. The Ten Commandments
- c. The Beatitudes
- d. The Precepts of the Church
- e. The Sacrament of Reconciliation
- f. The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
- g. Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- h. Catholic Social Teaching
- i. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament