

## **St. Joseph Youth Faith Formation Curriculum Big Ideas**

This document is a work in progress for the 2021-2022 program year as we continue to evaluate and align our curriculum with the AOD curriculum.

### **Please Note**

- The big ideas are listed when they are studied with a significant level of depth. There may be an earlier introduction of the idea with little depth.
- The lessons at each level build on the previous level, and there is a spiraling-up repetition or an advancement of study.
- A growing relationship with the Lord and prayer are a focus at every level.
- The kerygma is studied at all grade levels, progressing in depth of study.
- A familiarity of individual saints is nurtured at every level, while the deeper study begins in fourth grade.

### **Preschool (3-year-olds)**

- God as Creator – of humans
- Human abilities overview: to use our senses, to be caring, to praise and pray, to make things, and to learn

### **Preschool (4-year-olds)**

- God as Creator – of the world
- Aspects of creation overview: living things (people, animals), holy things (church, Bible), and earth

### **Kindergarten**

- Building a relationship with God
- Sharing God's love
- Right and wrong choices
- Feeling sorry and asking God for forgiveness
- Holy Family: Joseph, Mary, and Jesus
- Bible: what is it?
- Prayer: talking to God

### **First Grade**

- All previous grade level big ideas
- Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit = one God
- God as Creator study
- Caring for others
- Living as a community
- Prayer: Scripture
- Traditional prayers: "Sign of the Cross," "Our Father," "Hail Mary," "Glory Be" and "Guardian Angel"

## **Second Grade**

- All previous grade level big ideas
- Parts of the Mass: Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Concluding Rites; church building; roles of people in church life
- Preparation for First Reconciliation: understanding of sin and mercy, conscience, examination of conscience, contrition, confession, absolution, and penance
- Original Sin (Adam and Eve) and Story of Salvation
- Preparation for First Eucharist: deepening relationship with Jesus, real presence of Jesus, consecration, Last Supper, and praising and thanking God
- Traditional prayers: "Act of Contrition"

## **Third Grade**

- All previous grade level big ideas
- Bible: exploration of the life of Jesus, parables, and Jesus' power to heal, and beginning use of Bible
- Seven Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation/Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Marriage
- Twelve Apostles: Simon Peter, James (older brother of John), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot
- Church's Liturgical Year overview
- Prayer: ways to pray (including praying in color) and kinds of prayer

## **Fourth Grade**

- All previous grade level big ideas
- Bible: author and human writers, arrangement, Old and New Testaments, connection to Mass, and intermediate use
- Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:1-17
- Beatitudes overview
- Saint Study: patron saints, saint feast days, canonization process, familiarity with several saints, and the communion of saints
- "Four Last Things" (death, judgment, heaven, hell): purgatory

## **Fifth Grade**

- All previous grade level big ideas
- Salvation history (connecting Old Testament or "bad news" of sin with kerygma or "good news" of Jesus)
- God's Grace
- Caring for creation
- Christian Service: corporal and spiritual works of mercy
- Analysis of creeds and what we believe
- Traditional prayers: "Apostles' Creed" and "Nicene Creed"

## **Sixth Grade**

- All previous grade level big ideas
- Bible: arrangement and genre exploration, study of covenants, and proficient use
- Mary, Mother of God
- Understanding of the prayer Mary gave us and the mysteries of the rosary
- Church's Liturgical Year deeper study
- Vocations: single life, married life, religious/consecrated life, and holy orders
- Traditional prayers: "Hail, Holy Queen" and "The Rosary"

## **Seventh Grade/Year One Confirmation Preparation**

- All previous grade level big ideas
- Phase one of preparation for Confirmation: sacrament understanding, awareness of Holy Spirit connection from Baptism, sponsor selection, saint name selection, and "serve and learn" requirement
- Catholic Church history: timeline of major events (including attention to the Gospels); deposit of faith (Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium), including four marks of the Church and four pillars; and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- Catholic identity – being members of the Church: beliefs, traditions, practices, and personal active involvement; and living a holy life
- Stewardship: time, talent, and treasure
- Traditional prayers: "Stations of the Cross"

## **Eighth Grade/Year Two Confirmation Preparation**

- All previous grade level big ideas
- Phase two of preparation for Confirmation: deepening awareness of the Holy Spirit and understanding of next steps of the faith journey
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit: knowledge, wisdom, understanding, counsel/right judgment, fortitude/courage, piety/reverence, and fear of the Lord/wonder and awe
- Fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity/love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity
- Seven Principals of Catholic Social Teachings: life and dignity of human person; call to family, community and participation; rights and responsibilities; option for the poor and vulnerable; dignity and rights of workers; solidarity; and care for God's creation
- Becoming a disciple of Christ – charisms, moral life, and living the mission of the Church