

# Religion Curriculum



## Saint Gerard Majella School

Updated Summer 2020

Including in each grade level curriculum, St. Gerard Majella students also adhere to the following as part of the Religion Curriculum.

- Proclaim and actively support the principle of Catholic Social Teaching: The Life and Dignity of the Human Person. In recognizing that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death: the unborn, vulnerable, disabled, elderly, sick, unemployed, and imprisoned.
- Respect and care for all of God's Creation: responsibly caring for the gifts of God.
- Participate in service opportunities, such as but not limited to St. Vincent DePaul, STL Food Bank, canned food collections, cards for homebound parishioners,

CGS/ATRIUM

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based religious formation program for children, beginning at the age of three. It seeks to create and facilitate a sacred, “hands-on” space for children called an atrium, in which both the children and the catechists can hear, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Christian faith as revealed in the scriptures and the liturgy. Originally developed in Rome by Dr. Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi over 50 years ago, the Catechesis continues to spread world wide and is used with adaptation in various Christian traditions.

Students in grades PreK-5th grade attend Catechesis of the Good Shepherd weekly. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Scope and Sequence is included at the end of the document.

*\*\*Identifies topics covered in Atrium that align with Religion Curriculum. -Grades K-5*

### **VIRTUES**

SGM has integrated the *Virtues in Practice Program* into the school. It is a program for children in grades pre-kindergarten through eight to grow closer to Jesus by imitating His life and virtues. It is set up in such a way that a whole school studies the same virtue each month, to provide a whole-school (and at home, whole-family) focus. The program covers 27 virtues over a three-year cycle, with 81 saints held up as models of the virtues. It was created by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation of Nashville, Tennessee.

**SUBJECT: Religion**

**GRADE: K**

**GOALS: Students will...**

1. Know that creation is a gift from God the Father - who loves us and gives us what we need.
2. Know that God gave us Jesus to teach us how to love.  
\*\*The Good Shepherd
3. Realize that bodies, feelings, senses, and talents are gifts from God.
4. Recognize that God gives us people to love - family, friends, Church.
5. Describe the Bible as a collection of stories of God's love for us.  
\*\*Prayer Table, Presentation of the Bible
6. Practice prayer through traditional prayers and spontaneous prayers.  
\*\*Prayer Table
7. Identify the Church seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.  
\*\*Liturgical Colors, Liturgical Calendar
8. Recognize Holy Days and Feast Days of the Church.  
\*\*Epiphany, Liturgy of Light, Pentecost Celebrations
9. State that we belong to God's family through Baptism.  
\*\*Baptism I and II
10. Recognize that saints are holy men and women who loved God so much they were willing to do anything for him.

#### **CONTENT TOPICS:**

1. Father - Creator
2. Jesus - Son of God
3. Respect for Creation
4. Faith Community
5. Bible Stories
6. Prayers - Sign of the Cross, Grace Before Meals, Hail Mary, Our Father, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, Guardian Angel, and Spontaneous Prayer.
7. Church Seasons
8. Feast Days - All Saint's Day, Immaculate Conception, Annunciation, Visitation, Epiphany, Holy Week, Pentecost
9. Baptism
10. Saints
11. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
12. Stewardship

**SUBJECT: Religion**

**GRADE: 1**

**GOALS: Students will ...**

1. Develop an understanding of and participate in Mass.  
\*\*Altar I, II, and III

2. Describe the Church Seasons of the year including Feast Days of the Church.  
\*\*Liturgical Calendar, Pentecost, Epiphany, Liturgy of Light
3. Recognize that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the Trinity.  
\*Sign of the Cross
4. Recognize prayer as listening and talking to God through learning the traditional prayers of the church.  
\*\*Prayer Table
5. Respect creation, self, and model positive values.  
\*\*La Fettuccia
6. Become familiar with stories from the Bible, as the Word of God.  
\*\*Infancy Narratives, Parables, Passion Narratives
7. Introduce the 7 Sacraments  
\*\*Baptism III
8. Recognize that Mary is the Mother of God and Queen of All Saints

**CONTENT TOPICS:**

1. Mass
2. Church Seasons/Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time
3. Blessed Trinity
4. Traditional Prayers/ Sign of the Cross, Lord's Prayer, Glory Be, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel Prayer, Grace Before Meals, Act of Contrition
5. Morality
6. Scripture
7. Sacraments/Introduction to all sacraments
8. Holy Days
9. Mary the Mother of God/Saints
10. Stewardship
11. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

**SUBJECT: Religion**

**GRADE: 2**

**GOALS: Students will...**

1. Recite the prayers of the church.  
\*\*Sign of the Cross, Prayer Table
2. Show understanding of the concept of sin and forgiveness.  
\*\*Healing of the Centurion's Servant, Sacrament Retreat Day

3. Express feelings of sorrow/contrition in preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.  
 \*\*Rite of Forgiveness, True Vine I and II, The Good Samaritan, Maxims, Summary of the Law, The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, The Found Coin, The Forgiving Father
4. Demonstrate understanding of the Eucharist as a meal, thanksgiving, and sacrifice.  
 \*\*Altar Works, Mystery of Faith, Synthesis of the Mass, Breaking of Bread with the Sign of Peace
5. Participate actively in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.  
 \*\*Synthesis of the Mass, Mystery of Faith, Breaking of Bread with the Sign of Peace
6. Identify the parts of the Mass and the articles of the Mass  
 \*\*Altar Works
7. Recognize Holy Days and Feast Days of the Church.  
 \*\*Epiphany, Pentecost, Liturgy of Light

#### **CONTENT TOPICS:**

1. Traditional prayers/ Sign of the Cross, Lord's Prayer, Glory Be, Hail Mary, Our Father, Act of Contrition
2. Forgiveness
3. Value belonging to the Family of God through Baptism
4. Accepting Responsibility for Conscience
5. Celebrating First Reconciliation and First Eucharist
6. Reinforce the Seven Sacraments
7. Scripture: Word of God, Jesus Feeds the Multitudes, Prodigal Son, Last Supper
8. Introduce Corporal Works of Mercy
9. Responding to Parts of the Mass
10. Pentecost
11. Celebrating the Sunday Eucharist Weekly
12. Serving, Respecting, and Making Peace with Others
13. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
14. Service Opportunities

**SUBJECT: Religion**

**GRADE: 3**

**GOALS: Students will...**

1. Identify the Church as the people of God.  
 \*\*Community Prayer Table
2. Describe events in the history of the early Church.  
 \*\*La Fettuccia
3. Relate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to the early Church.  
 \*\*Pentecost Synthesis

4. Express understanding that the Holy Spirit continues to be present in the Church and individuals today.  
\*\*Prophecy/Infancy Narratives, Agony in the Garden
5. Describe and express understanding of the Marks of the Church.
6. Recognize the structure of the liturgical year and its impact on liturgical celebrations.  
\*\*Epiphany, Prayer Table, Entire Year Celebrations
7. Express understanding that the Mass is the great celebration of the Church.  
\*\*Synthesis of Mass, Adoration, Eucharistic Presence of the Good Shepherd
8. Distinguish between various vocations/ministries in the Church and will describe the hierarchy of the Church.
9. Acquire knowledge of the Saints and their lives.
10. Demonstrate knowledge of the Rosary and the importance of the Blessed Mother.  
\*\*Infancy Narratives
11. Grow in knowledge in the seven sacraments  
\*\*Maxims

### **CONTENT TOPICS:**

1. Apostles' Creed
2. The Ten Commandments
3. St. Paul
4. Scripture: Acts of the Apostles, Miracles of Jesus
5. Demonstrate Pride in Catholic Identity
6. Trinity, with Emphasis on the Holy Spirit
7. Marks of the Church (One Holy Catholic Apostolic Church)
8. Appreciation of Different Vocation Calls from God
9. Celebration Rituals and Sacraments of the Church, especially Reconciliation, the Eucharist, and The Stations of the Cross
10. The Rosary, Emphasizing the Role of the Blessed Mother
11. The Saints
12. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
13. Traditional Prayers
14. Service Opportunities

**SUBJECT: Religion**

**GRADE: 4**

**GOALS: Students will...**

1. Examine the Law of Love, the Beatitudes, and the Ten Commandments as guides for Christian living.  
\*\*Maxims
2. Act on the basis of accepting responsibility for their choices.  
\*\*Sin Study
3. Read and reflect on Scripture passages related to forgiveness.  
\*\*Sin Study related to Old and New Testament, Maxims
4. Recognize that through the Sacrament of Reconciliation they are truly forgiven.

**\*\*Sin Study**

5. Describe God as Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**\*\*Pentecost, La Fettuccia, Plan of God**
6. Recognize that Jesus is fully divine and fully human.  
**\*\*Plan of God, Infancy Narrative, Passion Narrative**
7. Analyze that love of neighbor is inseparable from love of God.  
**\*\*Maxims, Good Samaritan**
8. Relate daily actions to the Works of Mercy.

**CONTENT TOPICS:**

1. Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide
2. Law of Love, Beatitudes, Ten Commandments, Laws of the Church
3. Covenant
4. Sin: Venial and Mortal
5. Practice Regular Examination of Conscience
6. Pray when Making Moral Choices and Accepting Responsibility for Choices
7. Liturgical Seasons of the Year
8. Traditional Prayers
9. Communion of Saints and Mary
10. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
11. Service Opportunities
12. Family Life
13. Stations of the Cross

**SUBJECT: Religion**

**GRADE: 5**

**GOALS: Students will...**

1. Explain the meaning of the sacraments and their communal dimension by active participation.  
**\*\*Color Based Materials (the Mass)**
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the Eucharist as central to Catholic life.  
**\*\*Memorial, Color Based Materials**
3. Describe the celebration of the seven sacraments, participate in the sacramental life of the community, and identify the seven sacraments in terms of Initiation, Healing, and Service.

- \*\*Parable of the Debtor (Reconciliation), Color Based Materials (the Mass), the Rite of Baptism
- 4. Cite and apply Scripture texts relating to the sacraments and to their institution by Christ.
- 5. Describe sacraments as life-giving signs of God's gift of grace.
  - \*\*Rite of Baptism, Memorial
- 6. Analyze the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed as a summary of Christian beliefs.
- 7. Identify the value of the Church's teachings on peace and justice and respect life issues.
  - \*\*The Peoples and the People of God
- 8. Model how to pray the Rosary.
  - \*\*Rosary Material
- 9. Actively participate in the Stations of the Cross.
- 10. Participate in Service Opportunities.
  - \*\*Parable of the Talents

**CONTENT TOPICS:**

1. The Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, and Service
2. The Importance of the Eucharist
3. Sanctifying Grace
4. Sacred Scripture
5. Catholic Tradition
6. Catholic Sacramentals
7. Liturgical Feasts, Seasons, and Holy Days of Obligation
8. Catholic Prayers: Nicene Creed, Memorare
9. Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary
10. Level and All School Liturgies
11. Principles of Catholic Family Living
12. Service Opportunities
13. Vocations

**SUBJECT: Religion**

**GRADE: 6**

**GOALS:      Students will...**

1. Describe the structure of the Bible, locate passages, and name various literary forms in the Scriptures.
2. Identify the Patriarchs, Prophets, and Kings of the Old Testament and describe their contribution to the growth of our Faith.
3. Explain the meaning of "Covenant" in human experience and the special meaning of "Covenant" between God and His people.
4. Show reverence for the Bible as the inspired Word of God.
5. Prayerfully reflect with the Bible.
6. Apply the teachings and lessons of Scripture to their lives.
7. Identify Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament Covenant.



## **CONTENT TOPICS:**

1. Structure of the Bible: The Old and New Testaments, Division of Books
2. Covenants of Noah, Abraham and Moses
3. Kings: Saul, David, and Solomon
4. Prophets: Amos, Isaiah, and Jeremiah
5. Psalms
6. Jesus' Life and Teachings Connected to the Promises of the Old Testament
7. Sacraments of Initiation, Healing and Service
8. Saints
9. Liturgical Year (with associated prayers) and Holy Days of Obligation
10. Principles of Catholic Family Living
11. Principles of Catholic Social Justice, and Participate in Christian Service.
12. Rosary/Rosary making

**SUBJECT: Religion**

**GRADE: 7**

**GOALS:      Students will...**

1. Articulate a deeper understanding of the persons and works of the Trinity.
2. Express a basic understanding of Jesus, his life and teachings as found in the New Testament, recognizing the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus as their Savior and model for Christian living.
3. Prayerfully reflect with the New Testament.
4. Identify the Kingdom of God as proclaimed by Jesus, modeled by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
5. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Commandments, Beatitudes, and Catholic moral teachings.
6. Express knowledge and appreciation of the Sacraments.
7. Recognize the importance of the Church's invitation to the Sacrament of Confirmation.
8. Demonstrate an awareness of the Church's teaching on Social Justice, and participate in Christian service.

9. Study and celebrate the Liturgical Seasons and Holy Days of Obligation.
10. Explain the Church's teachings on Christian Family Life.

**CONTENT TOPICS:**

1. Jesus: Son of God, Second Person in the Trinity, both Human and Divine
2. Incarnation
3. Paschal Mystery
4. The Nicene Creed
5. Titles of Jesus, Teacher and Messiah
6. The Authority and Moral Mission of the Church
7. Temptations and Moral Decision Making
8. Parable, Miracle and Mission
9. 10 Commandments, Beatitudes, Theological and Moral Virtues
10. Sacraments of Initiation Particularly Confirmation, Healing and Service
11. Saints
12. The Liturgical Year and Holy Days of Obligation
13. Principles of Catholic Family Living
14. Principles of Catholic Social Justice

**SUBJECT: Religion**

**GRADE: 8**

**GOALS: Students will...**

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Jesus' life and teachings in the Paschal Mystery.
2. Recognize the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus as their Savior and model for Christian living.
3. Trace the history of the Roman Catholic Church from apostolic times through the twenty-first century.
4. Articulate elements of and witness to their Catholic identity.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the four marks of the Catholic Church.
6. Choose to commit themselves to membership of the Catholic Church especially through the sacrament of Confirmation.
7. Prayerfully reflect with the Bible.
8. Express openness to the Holy Spirit and a deeper understanding of the workings of the Gifts and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
9. Demonstrate a knowledge and appreciation of the Sacraments.
10. Demonstrate an awareness of the Church's teaching on Social Justice.

11. Share time, talent, and treasure in service to the community in response to the Gospel call.
12. Participate in the Sacramental Life of the Church celebrating the seasons of the Liturgical Year, and Holy Days of Obligation.
13. Demonstrate an understanding of the Church's teaching on Christian Family Life.

**CONTENT TOPICS:**

1. History of the Church
2. Doctrine: Sacred Scripture, Tradition, Councils and Encyclicals
3. The Nicene Creed
4. Application of Doctrine and Heritage: What we Celebrate, Live and Pray
5. Marks of the Church (One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic)
6. Authority of the Church (Magisterium)
7. Holy Spirit
8. Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit
9. Sacraments of Initiation Particularly Confirmation
10. Catholic Moral Teaching: 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching, 10 Commandments, Beatitudes, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
11. Scripture
12. Saints
13. Liturgical Year and Holy Days of Obligation
14. Principles of Catholic Family Living