

EIGHTH GRADE RELIGION

God – The student will explain how God reveals Himself to His people.

- a. Name sources of God's revelation.
- b. Describe how creation itself reveals God.
- c. Describe how God's self-revelation continues.
- d. Explain the Church's role in God's revelation.
- e. Explain how revelation reaches its ultimate expression in Jesus.

Jesus – The student will recognize that Jesus reveals Himself as a servant sent by and acting for the Father.

- a. Recognize that Jesus' mission is a continuing one – to bring to God the Father.
- b. Explain how Jesus' Biblical titles (e.g. Suffering Servant, Messiah, Prophet, Son of God) reveal who He is and what He has done.
- c. Describe how Jesus' life gives us an example of how to live.
- d. Explain how Jesus offers the Beatitudes as a way of life for His followers.
- e. Describe how Jesus reveals His love and saves us from sin and death through His death and resurrection.
- f. Explain Charlemagne's role in Church history.
- g. Explain the effects of the 4th Lateran Council.
- h. Describe monasticism and its effects in history.
- i. Explain the Church's growth in the time of Mendicants.
- j. Explain the role of the early Church's "Fathers".
- k. Explain the Church's growth in the time of the Crusaders.
- l. Describe St. Jerome's, Augustine's, and Ambrose's contributions to the Church.
- m. Explain the importance of Thomas Aquinas.
- n. Describe the great schism in the Church.
- o. Describe the cause and effects of the Reformation.
- p. Describe events that took place in Augsburg.
- q. Describe the cause and effect of the Council of Trent.
- r. Describe the Counter-Reformation.
- s. Describe the Missionary Church.
- t. Time line the growth of the Church in America.
- u. Explain the importance of American Church figures.
- v. Name and tell the significance of leaders in each era.
- w. Name and explain the different eras of the Church's history.
- x. Describe critical events in the Church's history.
- y. Describe issues and conflicts in the Church's history.
- z. Describe new directions the Church has taken.
- aa. Plan a Mass.
- bb. Explain how Jesus is present today through prayer, the Gospels, the Church and sacraments.

Holy Spirit – The student will understand that Jesus Christ is present in the Church through the Holy Spirit.

- a. Describe the first Pentecost.
- b. Explain how the Holy Spirit strengthens us to follow Christ and to live the Gospel values.
- c. Recognize that the Holy Spirit has helped the Church to renew and form itself.

Sacred Scripture – The student will grow in his or her understanding of Scripture.

- a. Explain how the authors of the New Testament were influenced by the culture and time in which they lived and by the needs of the people for whom they wrote
- b. Understand that the Acts of the Apostles describes how the early Christian community lived and gave witness.
- c. Explain how the Letters were written to communities in the early Church by Paul, and other leaders, to encourage the Christians to be strong in their witness to Christ.

Church – The student will explore the history of the Catholic Church.

- a. Explain life in Jerusalem in the early Church.
- b. Describe life in the Roman Territories.
- c. Explain the results of the Peace of Constantinople.

Councils – The student will define Councils and key points in Church history.

- a. Define Council as ecumenical.
- b. Associate Councils with problems and decisions.
- c. Associate Jerusalem with the baptism of Gentiles.
- d. Associate Nicea with the divinity of Jesus.
- e. Associate Constantinople with the Holy Spirit.
- f. Associate Ephesus with Mary, the Mother of God
- g. Associate Chalcedon with the humanity of Jesus.
- h. Associate Florence with the Eastern Church.
- i. Associate Trent with the sacraments.
- j. Associate Vatican I with the Pope's infallibility.
- k. Describe Vatican II's role in the modern world.
- l. Describe Vatican II's impact on the liturgy and on ecumenism and evangelization.

Heaven – The student will describe Heaven as sharing God's life fully.

- a. Describe Heaven as a state of being, rather than a place.
- b. Select passages where Jesus speaks of Heaven.
- c. Explain judgment as a time for reward, celebration, justice, and mercy.

Sacraments – The student will understand that sacraments celebrate the personal and communal faith relationships Christians have with Christ.

- a. Recognize that the proclamation of the Word is an important part of all sacraments.
- b. Recognize that sacramental actions of the Church originated in Jewish rituals.

Christian Response – The student will identify Christian service as a response to the needs of the community.

- a. Explain a life of sharing, service, and witness as part of the total mission of the Church.
- b. Participate in Christian service activities.

Morality – The student will recognize that we are called to union with God by turning from sin and opening our hearts to His grace.

- a. Explain how sin is the greatest obstacle to loving God and working out our salvation.

- b. Understand that sin occurs when moral laws are knowingly and deliberately violated.
- c. Describe conversion as a healing process in which weakness, selfishness, and sin is overcome.
- d. Describe times when disobedience is allowed

Social Issues – The student will explore social issues.

- a. Describe the causes and effects of hunger. Suggest solutions.
- b. Describe non-physical types of hunger.
- c. Give the causes and effects of violence and crime. Suggest solutions.
- d. Name the causes and effects of war. Propose means to maintain peace.
- e. Discuss population growth and growth trends.
- f. Describe the problems of over-population and the need for balance.
- g. Explain the importance of conserving resources.
- h. Describe the types, causes, and effects of discrimination.
- i. Name, compare, and explain the different types of poverty. Describe possible solutions.
- j. Describe the causes and effects of the present divorce rate. Suggest preventative actions.
- k. Distinguish between separation and divorce.
- l. Explain annulment.
- m. Explain how all life is a gift from God. Describe every person's right to life.
- n. Explain why the following are life issues:
 - *Abortion
 - *Euthanasia
 - *Capital Punishment
 - *Pollution
- o. Identify various types of drugs. Describe the effects of drugs.
- p. Explain how humans abuse and misuse the gift of sexuality.
- q. Explain the causes and effects of the following:
 - *Promiscuity
 - *Premarital sex
 - *Homosexual acts
 - *Rape
 - *AIDS
 - *Sexually transmitted diseases
- r. Understand that everyone has a right to personal privacy.
- s. Describe the effects of pollution. Describe our responsibility to balance nature.

Human Life – The student will value the sacredness of life.

- a. Understand that everyone is loved and deserving of respect.
- b. Respect individual differences as gifts to be appreciated.
- c. Recognize the different ways of expressing love for others.
- d. Understand that sexual intercourse, within a marriage, is an expression of love between a husband and wife.
- e. Understand the Church's teaching against premarital, and extramarital sexual relations.
- f. Understand the Church's teaching against pornography, prostitution, and homosexual acts.
- g. Understand the Church's teaching against abortion and euthanasia.
- h. Recognize our responsibility for our actions and the importance of avoiding people and situations which may be dangerous.
- i. Define emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.
- j. Describe strategies to get out of abusive (or potentially abusive) situations.

- k. Recognize the different types of sexual perpetrators.
- l. Explain safe internet use as a means of protecting oneself from predators.
- m. Explain the importance of reporting abuse.
- n. Explain the consequences of false reporting of abuse.
- o. Recognize the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

Prayer – The student will experience different forms of prayer: shared prayer, spontaneous prayer, reflective prayer, and praying with scripture.

- a. Make the sign of the cross reverently.
- b. Pray together as a class, school community, family and church.
- c. Understand and pray the Lord's Prayer.
- d. Pray the Hail Mary
- e. Pray the Blessing Before Meals.
- f. Pray the Glory Be.
- g. Pray the Act of Contrition.
- h. Pray the Apostles' Creed.
- i. Offer God thanks and praise.
- j. Pray for personal needs and the needs of others.
- k. Pray for the forgiveness of sins.
- l. Recognize the Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Corporal Works of Mercy.
- m. Recognize the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.
- n. Recognize the Magnificat.
- o. Pray the Morning Offering.
- p. Recognize some Psalms.
- q. Recognize Scriptural prayer.
- r. Recognize the Confiteor.
- s. Memorize the Nicene Creed.