

## **FOURTH GRADE**

**Theme:** Everyone has a call to holiness in imitation of Jesus. We respond to this call by living as members of the community of the Church, by understanding and obeying the Ten Commandments, by following the great commandment of love of God and neighbor as well as the beatitudes and the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The Holy Spirit enlightens us and gives us the power to live as Jesus did.

### **REVIEW PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDINGS:**

- Recall initiation sacraments.
- Recall that the Church is the family of God.
- Review that Jesus continues to be with us through the sacraments.
- Recall that Jesus chose the apostles as the first leaders, to be of service among his people.
- Review that Jesus appointed Peter as the leader of the apostles.
- Recall that the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
- Review that the Holy Spirit came to the apostles at Pentecost.
- Recite the following prayers:
  - Sign of the Cross
  - Our Father
  - Hail Mary
  - Glory Be
  - Prayers before and after meals
  - Act of Contrition
  - Apostles Creed
- Review an examination of conscience.
- Review and describe the steps included in the individual celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and the reasons for each.

GIVEN THE COGNITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES DEVELOPING THE MESSAGE - AND THE COMMUNITY, WORSHIP, AND SERVICE COMPONENTS APPROPRIATE FOR FOURTH GRADE, STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE AT THE END OF THIS GRADE LEVEL THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS:

## MESSAGE

- The kingdom of God is the presence of God's love, peace, and justice in the world NCD #67, 100; TTOC pp. 160-162, 471-472; CCC #541-550, 2046.
- The Ten Commandments are part of the covenant or promise between God and His people in the Old Testament NCD #52; TTOC p.247; CCC #2056-2063.
- The Ten Commandments guide our actions in daily life NCD #105, Appendix A TTOC pp. 247-248; CCC #2069, 2072, Part Three, Section Two, Ch. 1-2.
- Jesus' new law of love tells us we must love God above all things and love others of diverse races, ages, cultures, and abilities NCD #154; TTOC pp. 248-249, 273-274, 305-307; CCC #1931-1933, 1934-1938, 2052, 2055.
- The spiritual and corporal works of mercy teach us to care about the needs of ALL people and to have a special love for the poor and persons who are disadvantaged NCD #66; TTOC p.434; CCC #2447.
- The eight beatitudes are teachings of Jesus that show us how we can be truly happy and share happiness with others NCD #100; TTOC pp. 18, 328; CCC #1716-1719.
- The precepts of the Church are seven Church laws that guide our practice of holy days and fast days, receiving sacraments, studying Church teaching, and helping in missionary work NCD #105, Appendix B; TTOC pp. 195-196; CCC #2041-2043.
- Jesus calls each of us to personal conversion through a process of sorrow, forgiveness, and reconciliation NCD #124; TTOC pp. 424-427; CCC #1426, 1427-1428, 1430-1432.
- The Church celebrates different forms of reconciliation through its prayer and liturgy NCD #124; TTOC pp. 430-431, 432; CCC #1434-1439, 1443-1444, 1480-1484.
- Develop an awareness that we will all face judgment when we die NCD #108-109; TTOC pp. 460-462; CCC #677-678; GDC #102.

- Sin and evil exist in our world today as a result of original sin and its consequences NCD #98; TTOC p.324; CCC #385-387, 396-410, 1739, 1849-1850.
- Mortal sin is a total break in our relationship with God and the Church NCD #98;TTOC pp. 262-264; CCC #1855-1859, 1861.
- Venial sin is a less serious offense but one which weakens our relationship with self, God, and others NCD #98; TTOC pp. 265-266; CCC #1855, 1862-1863.
- There is a difference between situations of accident or carelessness and deliberate moral choice, direct or indirect NCD #98; TTOC p.262; CCC #387, 1860.
- The Sacrament of Penance is an important sacramental way to express sorrow and experience God's forgiveness; we need to go to confession regularly NCD #124; TTOC pp. 426-427.
- God wants us to care for our bodies and respect the bodies of others NCD #105 b,c; TTOC pp. 272-274; CCC #2258, 2288-2291, 2300, 2519, 2521-2522.
- Division, people not getting along, is against the will of Christ NCD #95; TTOC pp. 213, 293-294; CCC #817-822, 1868-1869, 1938.
- Grace is God's life in our souls and a sharing in a special friendship with God NCD #57, 98; TTOC p. 323; CCC #1997; GDC #86
- Grace is a gift from God NCD #57; TTOC p. 323; CCC #2003; GDC #92, 102, 137-138, 146
- Mary is an excellent model of how to be a faithful follower of Jesus; she is the model disciple in Christ's Church NCD #106; TTOC p.202; CCC #967.
- Individual gifts and talents lead us to be disciples as priests, sisters and brothers, married or single people GCD #66; NCD #94; TTOC pp.312-313, 316, 317, 395, 452; CCC #873.

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

## Deepen the understanding of the Ten Commandments.

### First Commandment

- Teach the children to look upon sacred images with reverence, not for themselves, but for the persons they represent. We respect and revere saints; we worship only God NCD #146; CCC #2131-2132, 2141; TTOC p. 266; GDC #130.

### Second Commandment

- Explain that blasphemy is using the name of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary, and of the saints in an offensive way NCD #105a; CCC #2162; TTOC pp. 265, 267.
- Describe that swearing and the use of bad language is a violation of the second commandment NCD #100a; CCC #2164; TTOC p. 267; GDC #130.

### Third Commandment

- Teach that Catholics must attend Mass on Saturday evening or Sundays and holy days of obligation and make the day holy and prayerful NCD #58; CCC #2185, 2192-2193; TTOC p. 267.
- Tell the children that we as Catholics should refrain from all unnecessary work on Sundays, and spend time with our families and reach out to the needy NCD #58; CCC #2205, 2234, 2248; TTOC pp. 297-300.

### Fourth Commandment

- Present the family as an image of the Trinity.
- Describe that the fourth commandment calls us to show love, respect and obedience to our parents at all times especially in their old age NCD #226-227, 255; CCC #2231, 2248; TTOC pp. 297-300.

### Fifth Commandment

- Impart that the fifth commandment calls us to respect life from conception to natural death.
- Teach that the fifth commandment opposes murder - the deliberate killing of an innocent person NCD #167; CCC #2216, 2268-2269, 2320; TTOC pp. 273-274.
- Explain that the fifth commandment teaches that “deliberate *hatred* is contrary to charity” NCD #105b, 165; CCC #2303; TTOC pp. 269-270.
- Explain that the fifth commandment opposes all threats to life: abortion, suicide, euthanasia, etc.

### Sixth Commandment

- Discuss that men and women are equal in dignity, yet they have complementary differences NCD #156, 173-174; CCC #2333-2334, 2393; TTOC pp. 442-443.
- Teach that the sixth commandment opposes adultery, the breaking of the promise by a husband or wife to love only the other faithfully and fully NCD #99; CCC #2380; TTOC pp. 282-285.
- Teach that the sixth commandment prohibits us from engaging in any behavior or activity against chastity. It calls us to be pure in thoughts, in speech, and in deed NCD #1006; CCC #2349, 2364; TTOC pp. 286, 288.

## **Seventh Commandment**

- Present that we must be respectful of what belongs to others. Stealing or cheating violates God's law NCD #100, 105; GDC #85; TTOC p. 248.

## **Eighth Commandment**

- Teach that lying for any reason is always wrong NCD #100; CCC #2482; TTOC pp. 247-248; GDC #130.
- Explain that false witness and perjury are grave offenses against truth NCD #47; CCC #2476; TTOC pp. 290-292; GDC #117.
- Help the children to understand that division, people not getting along, is against the will of Christ NCD #95; CCC #817-822, 1868-1869, 1938; TTOC pp. 213, 293-294; GDC #116.
- Explain that misrepresenting people by telling stories against them is wrong NCD #154; CCC #2477, 2484; TTOC p. 248; GDC #130.

## **Ninth Commandment**

- Teach that the desiring of your neighbor's wife or husband is always a sin NCD #105; CCC #431; TTOC pp. 247-248; GDC #173.
- Present that the kingdom of God is the presence of God's love, peace, and justice NCD #67, 100; CCC #541-550, 2046; TTOC pp. 160-162, 471-472.

## **Tenth Commandment**

- Explain that desiring of your neighbor's goods in a wrongful way violates God's law NCD #105; CCC #2062; TTOC p. 330; GDC #115.
- Describe the Ten Commandments as part of the covenant or promise between God and His People in the Old Testament NCD #52; CCC #2056-2063; TTOC p. 247.
- Tell the students that the Ten Commandments guide our actions in daily life and lead us to a life of happiness NCD #105 Appendix A; CCC #2069, 2072, Part III, Section 2, Chap. 1-2; TTOC pp. 247-248.
- Identify that Jesus' new law of love tells us we must love God above all things and love others of diverse races, ages, cultures, and abilities NCD #154; CCC #1931-1938, 2052, 2055; TTOC pp. 248-249, 273-274, 305-307.
- Characterize that the Gospel fulfills the Old Law by orienting its promises to the Kingdom of heaven TTOC pp. 443-444; CCC #1967, 1982, 1984.

## **THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH**

### **The Sacrament of Baptism**

- **Help the students obtain a deeper understanding of the sacraments.**
- Teach that these three sacraments together make up Christian initiation: Baptism, which is the beginning of a new life; Confirmation, which strengthens that life; and the Eucharist, which nourishes the disciple with Christ's Body and Blood for transformation in Christ NCD #116; CCC #1275, 1283; TTOC pp. 401-413; GDC #90-91, 176.
- Understand Baptism as a joining to the community of Christ's Church NCD #116; CCC #1275, 1283; TTOC pp. 401-413; GDC #90-91, 176.

- Explain that the baptized are incorporated into the Church and share in the priesthood of Christ NCD #93; CCC #1267-1269, 1279; TTOC pp. 409-410; GDC #27.
- Define the fruits of Baptism as forgiveness of original and personal sin and birth into new life NCD #98, 116; CCC #1213, 1263; TTOC pp. 407-410; GDC #66, 106.

### **The Sacrament of Confirmation**

- Identify that Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation and is associated with Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit NCD #118-119; CCC #1285, 1287, 1302; TTOC pp. 413-420; GDC #231-232.
- Respond to the call to each Catholic to grow in faith and witness NCD #119; CCC #1285, 1303; TTOC pp. 416-419; GDC #232.
- Receive an empowerment through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit NCD #59, 118; CCC #1303, 1829-1831; TTOC pp. 327, 412; GDC #45, 231.

### **The Sacrament of Eucharist**

- Describe that the Eucharist is “thanksgiving and praise to the *Father*, the sacrificial memorial of *Christ* and His Body, the presence of Christ by the power of his word and of his *Spirit*” NCD #120-121; CCC #1358, 1370; TTOC pp. 360-361, 368; GDC #85-87.
- Teach that the Eucharist is offered also for the faithful departed who have died and are not yet purified, so that they may enter heaven NCD #120; CCC #144, 1371; TTOC p. 375.
- Call the Eucharist the Lord’s Supper, the Holy Sacrifice, Holy Communion and Holy Mass NCD #120; CCC #1328-1332; TTOC pp. 373, 376; GDC #115.
- Teach the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life NCD #64, 120; CCC #1327, 1407; TTOC p. 374; GDC #159, 218.

### **The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation**

- Present that both sin and forgiveness have a social as well as a personal dimension NCD #124-126; CCC #1440, 1462, 1469; TTOC pp. 421-434; GDC #195.
- Explain the essential elements of the sacrament are contrition, confession of sin, satisfaction made by the penitent, and absolution of the priest NCD #124; CCC #1448, 1480, 1491; TTOC pp. 425-428; GDC #102.
- Teach that sin wounds God’s honor, the human dignity of the sinner, and the good of the Church; no evil is graver than sin NCD #125; CCC #1487-1488; TTOC p. 262; GDC #37.
- Recognize that Penance offers a reunion among God, the Church and us NCD #124; CCC #1424, 1440, 1443-1445, 1462; TTOC pp. 421, 433; GDC #37, 56.

### **The Anointing of the Sick**

- Recall that during his earthly life, Christ touched and healed. He continues to do so in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick NCD #127-128; CCC #1504, 1511; TTOC pp. 434-441; GDC #116.
- Believe that the Anointing of the Sick is an extension of the healing of Christ to the seriously ill or elderly NCD #128; CCC #1499, 1514; TTOC pp. 436-437; GDC #87.
- Indicate that Christ’s sufferings on the cross give a new meaning to human suffering NCD #128; CCC #1505, 1521; TTOC p. 141; GDC #87.
- Recognize that this sacrament provides a relief and strengthening for the soul of the sick person NCD #128; CCC #1503, 1508, 1520-1521; TTOC p. 439.

- Introduce that sometimes a restoration of bodily health takes place NCD #127; CCC #1512, 1515, 1520; TTOC p. 439.

### **The Sacrament of Holy Orders**

- Teach that priests preach the Gospel, celebrate the Eucharist and serve their parish as leaders NCD #132-133; CCC #1566-1567, 1595; TTOC pp. 385-400; GDC #224-231.
- Understand the ordained ministry as one which teaches, sanctifies and governs the People of God NCD #132; CCC #1552-1553; TTOC pp. 397-399; GDC #224.
- Realize that priesthood is a primary means of the sacramental presence of Christ NCD #132; CCC #1548, 1551; TTOC p. 389; GDC #224.
- Understand the celebration of the three orders of bishop, priest, and deacon NCD #132; CCC #1554-1555, 1571; TTOC p. 392; GDC #224.
- Learn that “among other tasks, it is the task of the deacon to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the distribution of Holy Communion, in assisting at the blessing of marriage, in the proclamation of the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals, and in dedicating themselves to the various ministries of charity” NCD #93; CCC #1570, 1596; TTOC pp. 390-391; GDC #225.

### **The Sacrament of Matrimony**

- Present the family as the “domestic church” NCD #130-131; CCC #1655-1657, 1666; TTOC pp. 442-453; GDC #176.
- Recall that marriage is an empowerment for the couple to be love-giving and life-giving NCD #131; CCC #1641-1642; TTOC pp. 445, 448; GDC #232.
- Identify marriage as a reflection of the covenant of indissoluble love between Christ and the Church NCD #130; CCC #1605, 1639-1640, 1644, 1661; TTOC pp. 443-444; GDC #258.
- Portray the love of husband and wife as the image of the love of Christ for His Church NCD #130; CCC #1616-1617, 1659, 1661; TTOC p. 413; GDC #232.

## **RESPONSE/EXPERIENCE:**

### **COMMUNITY**

- Express an understanding of the relationship between God, self, and others.
- Understand that God calls us to a life of community within the Church.
- Participate in celebrations that honor the religious and cultural heritage of the parish such as the anniversary of the dedication of the parish church, special devotions.
- Understand that belonging to the Church means following Jesus’ way of living responsibly for self and others.
- Appreciate the Church as a universal community which includes persons of all ages, races, cultures, and abilities.
- Explore ways in which each of the Ten Commandments applies to our lives and our

relationships with others.

- Understand that the beatitudes should guide our relationships with each other and lead us to God.
- Grow in understanding of the ways in which friends, society, media can lead to occasions of sin as well as occasions of grace.
- Appreciate the need to respect people of all religions. The students should recognize that the Catholic Church is the one Church founded by Christ, while understanding there is a goodness in all other religions.
- Become aware of how Jesus' call to forgiveness of others can be used in real situations of hurt in our daily lives.

## **WORSHIP**

- Understand why it is important to participate in the weekly Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.
- Develop ways and occasions to celebrate communal prayer, both formal and spontaneous, especially those that celebrate liturgical seasons.
- Participate in class prayer services.
- Develop a sensitivity for practicing a daily personal examination of conscience.
- Understand that the Sacrament of Penance celebrates the forgiveness of Christ through the Church.
- Help plan and join in a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Penance with individual confession.

## **SERVICE**

- Develop an understanding that individual gifts and talents are to be used in the service of others.
- Appreciate that the Church, as a community, is called to serve others through forgiveness as well as by concrete care for the world and those in need.
- Develop and participate in simple class projects to benefit persons in the parish and/or local community in need of special assistance.
- Participate in making good moral choices to serve others.
- Develop ways to show our special love for the poor.

- Participate in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

## **SCRIPTURE FOR YOUR REFERENCE**

Genesis 2:4 - 3:24	... The Fall
Luke 10:25-28	... Jesus' Great Commandment
Luke 12:27-34	... Lilies of the Field
John 4:21-24	... Worship
John 15:21	... Reaction of the World
John 13:34-35	... Love One Another
John 7:1-10; 11-17	... Jesus living of the life of love
John 14:1-6	... The Way, Truth, and Life
Matthew 5:1-12	... The Beatitudes
Matthew 25	... The Works of Mercy and Last Judgment
Luke 15:11-32	... Prodigal Son and Loving Father
John 20:19-23	... The gift of Penance
John 20:1-10;11-18	... The empty tomb and appearance to Mary Magdalene
Luke 23:39-43	... The “good thief” on the cross

## **PRAYERS**

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Act of Contrition

Apostles Creed

The Rosary

Prayers before and after meals

## **CONCEPTS**

The Ten Commandments

The Great Commandment

The Works of Mercy (Corporal and Spiritual)

## STUDENTS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS

absolution	covet	parable
ascension	contrition	penance
assumption	free-will	precepts of the church
baptism	grace	prophets
beatitudes	holy day of obligation	reconciliation
Christian	hope	redemption
commandments	Immaculate Conception	rosary
communion of saints	incarnation	service
community	in vain	sorrow
confirmation	justice	spiritual works of mercy
conscience	kingdom of God	Ten Commandments
corporal works of mercy	law of love	temptation
covenant	liturgy	venial sin
disciple	mortal sin	universal Church
Eucharist (Mass)	obedience	virtue
examination of conscience	occasion of sin	violence
faith	original sin	