

Religion Guidelines

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

These Religion Guidelines are those published in 2000; reformatted into trimesters in 2006; revised in 2012, 2013 and 2022. Each Grade contains the following:

- The **core content** with references to scripture

To help teachers in their presentations, the outline is referenced to scripture which suggests certain passages that complement a specific topic in the outline. Teachers are encouraged to use the scripture passages for personal prayer as well as for reflection and for sharing with students. This could help the children become increasingly more familiar and comfortable with scripture and its importance in the lives of both the Church and of those who are followers of Jesus Christ. The numbers on the right side of the page in parentheses correspond to the **paragraph numbers** in the Catechism of the Catholic Church which treat of a specific subject or concept. This is to help the teachers in their own background reading. It is not intended that students be taught directly from the Catechism.

- The **Liturgical Year** (Ordinary Time; Advent; Christmas Season; Lent; Holy Week; Triduum; Easter Season; Saints and Holy People) is developed according to its appropriate placement in each trimester. The importance of *Sunday* is stressed.
- Summaries of the feasts of **Mary** and lives of the **Saints**
- **Praying with Children**

Each Grade is required to learn certain of our Traditional Catholic Prayers. The versions we should teach can be found in either the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), Appendix B: Traditional Catholic Prayers *or* the Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church, Appendix A: Common Prayers (English and Latin).

Hopefully, using these guidelines as the basis of teaching the subject of Religion will contribute to developing a strong religious foundation in the Catholic Faith for each student, and invite the student into the mission of the Church which is the mission of Jesus Christ. It is our hope that each student will come to a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith and be able to articulate this faith. The **faith believed** is the **faith celebrated** in one's full, conscious and active participation in the sacramental life of the Church. The **faith believed** is the **faith lived** in a moral life that demonstrates the social consequences of living according to the demands of the Gospel. It is a life that serves the needs of others with care and compassion. The **faith believed** is the **faith prayed** in attitudes of adoration, praise, thanksgiving, and awe for the glory of God.

First Trimester

I. THE BIBLE

A. DEFINITION

(81-82)

Collection of sacred writings

1. Inspired word of God

2 Tim. 3:16-17

2. A source of Revelation

(NCD #48-61, (DV #1-10)

B. HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

1. Name of book or Bible

2. Chapter number

3. Verse number

4. Title of story

5. Parallel passages

6. Cross references

C. STRUCTURE

1. Old Testament

(702)

a. Total number of books

(46 books)

b. Divisions

1) The Torah/ Pentateuch
(The Law of Moses)

(5 books)

2) The Historical Books

(16 books)

- 3) The Wisdom Books (7 books)
- 4) The Prophetic Books (18 books)
- 2. New Testament (124-26)
 - a. Total number of books (27 books)
 - b. Divisions
 - 1) The Gospels (4)
 - 2) The Acts of the Apostles
 - 3) The Letters / Epistles (21 letters)
 - a) Paul's Letters (13 letters)
 - b) The Catholic Letters (7 letters)
 - c) The Letter to the Hebrews
 - 4) The Book of Revelation / Apocalypse

D. IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE

- 1. God communicates with us and reveals himself to us. (DV #2)
- 2. There is a natural desire for God in every human heart. (26-49)
- 3. Human beings have the capacity to hear God speaking to them.
- 4. Inspired Word of God (DV #11)
- 5. Root of our Christian faith (DV Ch. 4)
- 6. Covenant relationship Lk. 1:68-79, Gal. 4:4-7
- 7. Source of prayer (DV #2)

II. OLD TESTAMENT

A. LITERARY GENRE

- 1. Definition
- 2. Types
 - a. Birth Announcement

b. Call Narrative

c. Covenant Narrative

3. Interpreting Sacred Scripture (115-19)

a. Literal sense

b. Spiritual sense

B. MAJOR EVENTS

1. Creation Gn. 1, 2, (DV #3), (337-49)

2. Humanity's sinful response to God

a. The Fall of Adam and Eve
Original Sin and its effects Gn. 3, GS #13, 17, (385-90, 396-409, 415-19)

b. Cain and Abel Gn. 4

c. Sin in Noah=s Time Gn. 6-9

d. Tower of Babel Gn. 11:1-9

3. God's Response Gn. 5-8

a. Characteristics

1) Justice Sir. 35:17

2) Mercy and love Ps. 51:1, Lam. 3:22-23

b. Promise of Redemption Gn. 3:15, (DV #14-16)

c. Choosing a Special People: Israel
Our Ancestors in Faith Gn. 12-50

1) Abraham and Sarah

a) Call Gn. 12:1-3, (59, 72, 762)

b) Response in faith Gn. 12, Heb. 11:9-20

c) New name Gn. 17:5

d) Covenant Gn. 15, (762, 1222)

e) Promise of a Son Gn. 16, 17

f) Sacrifice of the Son Gn. 22

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 2) Isaac and Rebekah | Gn. 24 |
| a) People of faith | |
| b) Covenant renewed | Sir. 44:22-23 |
| c) Parents of Esau and Jacob | Gn. 25:19-26 |
| d) Blessing of the sons | Gn. 27:26-40 |
| 3) Jacob, Leah and Rachel | (2573) |
| a) Esau, firstborn | Gn. 25:19-26 |
| b) Sells birthright | Gn. 25:27-34 |
| c) Jacob obtains blessing | Gn. 27:1-40 |
| d) New name (Israel) | Gn. 32:23-33 |
| e) Father of 12 sons | Gn. 35:23-29 |
| 4) Joseph and his brothers | Gn. 37:1-11 |
| a) Joseph - the favorite son | Gn. 37:3 |
| b) Joseph sold into slavery | Gn. 37:12-36 |
| c) Joseph - interpreter of dreams | Gn. 40:1-41 |
| d) Governor of Egypt | Gn. 41:37-50 |
| e) Blessing of Jacob | Gn. 49:22-26 |

III. LITURGICAL YEAR

(1163-73, 1194)

A. DEFINITION

The cycle of feasts and seasons celebrating the events of the life of Jesus Christ and his presence in the Church.

B. SUNDAY

The Lord's day is the day on which we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We go to Mass on this day to give praise and thanks to God. This is the heart of the Church's life.

C. ORDINARY TIME: liturgical color is green for hope, growth, life.

1. Time in the winter between Christmas time and Lent.
2. Time in the summer and fall from Pentecost to the Feast of Christ the King.
3. Refers to ordinal, counted time.
4. Time to hear the Scriptures proclaimed inviting us to live out the mysteries of our faith and the message of the Gospels.
 - a. Cycle A - Gospel of St. Matthew

b. Cycle B - Gospel of St. Mark

c. Cycle C - Gospel of St. Luke

D. ADVENT (524)

1. Liturgical color is purple for preparation, sorrow for sin

2. Begins the Liturgical Year

3. Period of four weeks of preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas

a. Prayers and Scripture readings emphasize the coming of Jesus Christ

b. First part of Advent focuses on his Second Coming at the end of time

c. Second part of Advent focuses on his coming into human history in Bethlehem

4. Advent symbols

a. Advent Wreath

b. Jesse Tree

E. SAINTS AND HOLY PEOPLE (1173)

Special days to honor saints are ranked and celebrated in different degrees.

Solemnity: liturgies celebrating events, beliefs, and personages of principal importance and universal significance in salvation history

Feast: liturgies of minor importance

Memorial: liturgies celebrating minor events in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of saints significant to a local country, church or religious community.

September 30: Memorial of St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor

Jerome was a man of extremes. His real name was Eusebius Hieronymus Sophronius. He was born around 345 A.D. in the area of present day Yugoslavia. His Christian family was able to send him to Rome at the age of twelve for a good education. There he excelled in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. After a period of time in the desert, he was ordained a priest. He spent much time counseling his friends in the spiritual life. Later, Pope Damasas, realizing his talents, commissioned Jerome to translate the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin. His translation was called the Vulgate. The Vulgate became the official biblical text of the Catholic Church.

October 15: St. Teresa of Avila, Virgin and Doctor

St. Teresa was born into a rich Spanish family in 1515. When she was fourteen, her mother died and her father sent her to be educated by the Augustinian Sisters. She eventually decided to enter the Carmelites. Her early years were marked by illness and migraines, and she often found it difficult to pray. Years later she received help from two deeply spiritual persons, St. Francis Borgia and St. Peter Alcantara. Through their encouragement, she made great progress in her prayer life and began to experience ecstatic visions. After this period, she led a reform of her Carmelite order because she felt the spiritual life of the order was hurting. She traveled throughout Spain and reformed many religious houses, aided by St. John of the Cross. Teresa wrote extensively, including the great work of mystical spiritualism, *Interior Castle*. She died in 1582 and was named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

October 17: St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Margaret Mary was born in 1647 into a well-known family in Burgundy, France. Desiring to dedicate her life to the service of God, she entered the Visitation Convent at Paray-Le-Monial at the age of twenty-two. She had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As a gift from Jesus, she received private revelations from him. Through her intercession, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus spread throughout Europe. In 1765, this devotion to the Sacred Heart was approved for liturgical observance by the Pope.

Jesus' message was, "See this heart which has loved so much and received so little love in return ... tell everyone that I really love them and I want to be loved in return. If you love me, pray and sacrifice for those who do not believe in my love or do not care about my love."

IV. MARY

A. Dogmas believed

1. The Immaculate Conception (490-94)
2. Mary's Divine Motherhood (495)
3. The Virgin Birth (496, 499, 510)
4. The Assumption (966, 974)

B. DAYS IN HONOR OF MARY (1172)

August 15 Solemnity of the Assumption

Pope Pius XII, on November 1, 1950, infallibly defined what Catholics always believed: Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven. (CCC #966)

September 8 Feast of the Birth of Mary

Mary was the daughter of Saints Ann and Joachim. They prayed that God would bless them with a child, and He rewarded their faithfulness with a daughter set apart to be the mother of the Son of God. Because of this, she was conceived and born immaculate and full of grace. We do not know from the Gospels the exact date of Mary's birth. However, Christians have celebrated it on September 8th since the 7th century. Mary's birth is one of only three celebrated on the liturgical calendar.

September 15 Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

Today, we remember how Mary, as the mother of Jesus, suffered greatly. There are seven events in particular that we recognize, called the Seven Sorrows. The Sorrows, which are all found in the Gospels, are the prophecy of Simeon (Lk. 2:34-35), the flight into Egypt to escape Herod (Mt. 2:13-21), the loss of Jesus for three days in the Temple (Lk. 2:41-50), meeting Jesus on the road Calvary (Jn. 19:17), the crucifixion and death of Jesus (Jn. 19:18-30), holding Jesus when He was taken down from the cross (Jn. 19:39-40), and Jesus laid in the tomb (Jn. 19:40-42). St. Bernard wrote, "Truly, O Blessed Mother, a sword has pierced your heart... He died in body through a love greater than anyone had known. She died in spirit through a love unlike any other since His." Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

October 7 Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

This feast was established by Saint Pius V. Pope Gregory XIII later named this the Feast of the Holy Rosary. This feast invites everyone to meditate upon the mysteries of Christ, following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary who was so singularly associated with the incarnation, passion and glorious resurrection of the Son of God. (Christian Prayer, 1976, p. 1285)

November 19 Our Lady of Divine Providence

On November 19, 1969 Pope Paul VI declared Our Lady Mother of Divine Providence principal patroness of the island of Puerto Rico, since November 19 was the date that the island was discovered. The image of Our Lady that is so special to the people of Puerto Rico shows the Divine Child sleeping peacefully in the Virgin Mary=s arms. However, the name and worship of Our Lady of the Divine Providence originated in Italy in the 12th century, then spread to Spain and then to Puerto Rico.

November 21 Memorial of the Presentation of Mary

The Presentation of Mary is a unique feast day. Although the event is not in the Bible, we learn from other sources that Mary’s parents, Ann and Joachim, offered Mary to God in the Temple when she was only three years old. We celebrate this event because it helps us to understand Mary’s unique holiness, which was nurtured from the very beginning of her life.

V. PRAYER

- A. DEFINITION Lk. 11:1-4
- B. KINDS Lk. 11:5-13,(2700, 2704, 2709-19, 2721-24)
 - 1. Communal
 - a. Eucharistic Liturgy Lk. 5:16
 - b. Liturgy of the Hours (1174, 1196)
 - 2. Private, personal Mt. 18:19-20
 - a. Biblical prayer (NCD #14), Ps. 139
 - 1) Reading and meditating on scriptures Ps. 27
 - 2) Use of the Old Testament Psalms Ps. 25, (2585-89)
 - b. Other forms (See pages 29-36)

- 1) The Jesus Prayer
- 2) Praying in Common (Choral Speech)
- 3) Song and Gesture
- 4) Meditation
- 5) Aspirations

C. PURPOSE OF PRAYER

1. Adoration (2626-28, 2639)
2. Thanksgiving (2637-38)
3. Petition (2629-36)
4. Contrition (2631, 2850-54)

VI. SACRAMENTALS

- A. Definition (1677)
- B. Kinds (1671-73)

VII. SOCIAL JUSTICE

The commitment to human life and dignity, to human rights and solidarity, is a calling all Catholic educators must share with their students. It is not a vocation for a few religion teachers, but a challenge for every Catholic educator and catechist.

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching Challenges and Directions, USCC, 1998, p. 7

Major Themes:

**The Life and Dignity of the Human Person
Call to Family, Community and Participation
Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person
Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

- A. AWARENESS OF THE BASIC DIGNITY OF EACH PERSON

Grade 6

1. Discuss appropriate ways to show respect for life in all its stages.
2. Discuss ways to peacefully resolve peer conflicts.
3. Celebrate birthdays and cultural and ethnic heritage.
4. Discuss ways to show respect for all members of a family.

B. RESPOND TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

1. Participate in parish and/or school collections:
food, clothing, toys, etc.
2. Connect with Archdiocesan Social Service Agencies

For further ideas see From the Ground Up *Teaching Catholic Social Principles in Elementary Schools*, NCEA, 1999.

Second Trimester

I. OLD TESTAMENT

A. MAJOR EVENTS (continued)

1. God's Response

a. Moses, Exodus, and the Covenant

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1) Early life | Ex. 2 |
| a) Oppression of Israelites | Ex. 1:8-22 |
| b) Love and care of Moses=
mother | Ex. 2:1-10 |
| 2) Leader of Israel | |
| a) God's call | Ex. 3:2-6, Sir. 45:1-5 |
| b) God's plan for Moses | Ex. 3:7-10 |
| c) Moses and Aaron before
Pharaoh | Ex. 5, 6:28 - 7:7 |
| d) Conflict with Pharaoh | Ex. 5 - 11 |
| e) Passover Ritual | Ex. 12:1-29, Heb. 11:28 |
| f) Departure/Exodus from Egypt | Ex. 12:30-38 |
| g) Crossing of the Red Sea | Ex. 14:10-22 |
| h) God provides for his people
(the manna and quail) | Ex. 16:1-36 |
| i) Meeting with God at Mt. Sinai | Ex. 19 |
| j) The Ten Commandments | Ex. 20-23 |
| k) The Covenant is sealed | Ex. 24:1-11 |
| l) Forty Years Wandering
in the Desert | |
| (1) The Tent of Meeting | Ex. 25:1-6; 40:1-5,34-38 |
| (2) The Ark of the Covenant | Ex. 25:10-16 |
| m) Death of Moses | Dt. 34:5-7 |

B. MAJOR PERSONS AND EVENTS

1. Joshua

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Successor to Moses | Nm. 27:18-23, Sir. 46:1 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|

laying on of hands

- b. Entered Promised Land (Canaan) Jos. 1:1-5,12
- c. Unified the people Jos. 1:10-18
- d. Destroyed Jericho Jos. 6:1-27
- e. Conquered Canaan Jos. 10-12
- f. Covenant at Shechem Jos. 24:1-28
- g. Death Jos. 24:29-30
- h. Personal qualities
 - 1) Courageous Nm. 14:6-10
 - 2) Prophetic Jos. 6:26-27
 - 3) Religious leader Jos. 2:7

2. Judges of Israel

- a. Characteristics of the era
 - 1) No central authority Jgs. 17:6, 21:25
 - 2) Spiritual decline Jgs. 2:16-18, 18:1-31
 - 3) Pattern of lifestyles of Israelites in Canaan
 - a) Infidelity
 - b) Punishment
 - c) Repentance
 - d) Deliverance

b. The Judges

- 1) Charismatic leaders
- 2) Ruled around 1250 B.C. to 1020 B.C.
- 3) Names
 - a) Deborah & Barak Jgs. 4:4-9
 - b) Gideon Jgs. 6:11-40
 - c) Samson Jgs. 15:20
 - d) Samuel 1 Sm. 7:15

c. Major Judges

- 1) Deborah

- a) Prophetess and judge Jgs. 4:4-14
- b) Song of triumph Jgs. 5:1-31
- c) Woman of trust
- 2) Gideon Jgs. 6-8
 - a) Man of faith Heb. 11:32
 - b) Defeated Midianites Jgs. 7-8:28
- 3) Samson
 - a) Man of contrasts: Jgs. 15:1-18
 - obedient-victorious/
disobedient-defeated;
physically strong/
morally weak Jgs. 16:3-12
 - b) Loss of strength Jgs. 16:4-31
 - Samson and Delilah
 - c) Death of Samson Jgs. 16:23-31
- 4) Samuel
 - a) Dedicated to God 1 Sm. 1:11-22
 - b) Prophet, priest, and judge 1 Sm. 3:20-21, Sir. 46:13
 - c) Last and greatest judge 1 Sm. 3,4,7
 - d) God's revelation to Samuel 1 Sm. 3:7-18
 - e) People demand a king 1 Sm. 8

3. Kings of Israel

a. Saul

- 1) First king of Israel 1 Sm. 9:1-2
- 2) Anointed as ruler 1 Sm. 10:1-16
- 3) Battles the Philistines 1 Sm. 17:1-58
- 4) Jealous of David 1 Sm. 18:6-13
- 5) Death of Saul 1 Sm. 31:1-6

b. David

- 1) Early life
 - a) Son of Jesse Ruth 4:17
 - b) Chosen by God,
Anointed by Samuel 1 Sm. 16:1-13, Sir. 47:2
- 2) Life under Saul
 - a) Harpist 1 Sm. 16:14-23
 - b) Kills Goliath 1 Sm. 17:4-49, Sir. 47:4
 - c) Subdues Philistines 1 Sm. 17:32-54
- 3) King of Israel

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| a) Anointed king | 2 Sm. 5:1-5 |
| b) Strengthens kingdom | 2 Sm. 5:11-16 |
| c) Organizes worship | 1Chr. 15:1-29 |
| d) Blesses people | 2 Sm. 6:17-19 |
| e) Receives eternal covenant | 2 Sm. 7:1-19 |
| f) Subdues many nations | 2 Sm. 8:1-18, 10:1-9 |
| g) Commits adultery and is rebuked by Nathan | 2 Sm. 11:1-27, 12:1-15 |
| h) Repents | Ps. 32:1-11, Ps. 51:1-19 |
| i) Secures Solomon's succession | 1 Kgs. 1:5-53 |
| j) Reigns for forty years | 1 Kgs. 2:11 |
| k) Steadfastly loyal to God | 1 Mc. 2:57 |
| 4) David's spiritual significance | |
| a) Prophet | Acts 2:29-30 |
| b) Musician | 2 Sm. 23:1 |
| c) From his family the Savior would come.
A Son of David@ - Jesus Christ | Mk. 11:10, Acts 15:16 |
| d) Faith | Heb. 11:32-33 |
| e) Covenant | 2 Sm. 7:4-17 |
| c. Solomon | |
| 1) Life | |
| a) David and Bathsheba's son | 2 Sm. 12:24, Sir. 47:12 |
| b) Significance of name | 1 Chr. 22:9 |
| c) Anointed by Nathan | 1 Kgs. 1:33-34 |
| d) Received instruction from David | 1 Kgs. 2:1-10 |
| e) Prayer for wisdom | 1 Kgs. 3:1-15 |
| f) Organized kingdom | 1 Kgs. 4:1-28 |
| g) Built temple | 1 Kgs. 5-6 |
| h) Dedicated temple | 1 Kgs. 8:22-66 |
| i) Falls into polygamy and idolatry | 1 Kgs. 11:1-3, Sir. 47:19 |
| 2) Solomon's strengths | |
| a) Chose an understanding heart | 1 Kgs. 3:5-9 |
| b) Exhibited sound judgment | 1 Kgs. 3:16-28 |
| c) Excelled in wisdom | 1 Kgs. 4:29-34 |
| d) Great writer | 1 Kgs. 4:32 |

- e) Reigned without war Sir. 47:12
- 3) Solomon's weaknesses
 - a) Love of luxury Eccl. 2:1-11
 - b) Married pagans 1 Kgs. 11:1-3
 - c) Idolatry 1 Kgs. 11:4-8
 - d) Actions divided nation Sir. 47:21
- 4) Solomon's death 1 Kgs. 11:41-43

II. LITURGICAL YEAR (1163-73, 1194)

A. CHRISTMAS

- 1. Liturgical color is white for joy, glory, innocence
- 2. The Birth of Jesus Christ Mt. 1:18 - 2:23

B. LENT

- 1. Time of preparation for Easter, forty days
- 2. From Ash Wednesday to the Mass of the Lord=s Supper on Holy Thursday
- 3. Liturgical color is purple for penance, repentance

C. HOLY WEEK

- 1. Palm Sunday Jn. 12:12-19
- 2. Triduum
 - a. Holy Thursday: Mt. 26:26-35
Mass of the Lord=s Supper Mk. 14:22-31,Lk. 22:14-23
 - b. Good Friday: Liturgical color is red for the blood of Jesus shed for us. Celebration of the Lord=s Passion Mt. 27, Mk. 15, Lk. 23
 - 1) Part 1: Liturgy of the Word
Special *General Intercessions*
 - 2) Part 2: Veneration of the Cross
 - 3) Part 3: Holy Communion
 - c. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil

- 1) Part 1: The Service of Light
- 2) Part 2: Liturgy of the Word
Nine readings are provided for this special Vigil
- 3) Part 3: Liturgy of Baptism
- 4) Part 4: Liturgy of the Eucharist

d. Easter

D. SAINTS AND HOLY PEOPLE

(1173)

November 30: Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle

St. Andrew was one of the Twelve Apostles and the brother of St. Peter. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus sees Andrew and Peter (called Simon) fishing and calls out to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:18-20). In the Gospels of John, we are told that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. When John pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God," Andrew left John to follow Jesus (John 1:35-40). However, we know very little about his life in the early Church. It is commonly believed that he preached the Gospels in Greece and Turkey and was crucified at Patras. The Christmas Anticipation Prayer begins on the Feast of Saint Andrew.

December 3: St. Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier was born in Spain in 1506. A student of St. Ignatius Loyola, he and St. Ignatius co-founded the Society of Jesus, known as the Jesuits, in 1534. They desired to send out missionaries all over the world. St. Francis spent much of the rest of his life founding missions in Asia, especially in India. His work throughout India, Japan and Malaysia was very hard since he lived amongst the poor and ministered to the sick. He died on an island near Hong Kong in 1552.

December 26: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Stephen, Protomartyr (New Testament), was a Jew raised beyond the area of Palestine. His life was influenced by Greek culture. His name in Greek means "crown." Stephen was one of the seven men designed for special tasks in the Acts of the Apostles. (Acts 6:1-6) Like Jesus, the deacon Stephen was accused of blasphemy. This young deacon delivered an eloquent speech in defense of Christian beliefs. As a result, he angered the Jews. He was condemned to death by stoning. St. Stephen is the first martyr recorded in the New Testament.

January 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in 1774 in New York. She was raised in the Episcopal Church, and after her mother died she was influenced greatly by the charitable works of her step-mother. When she was 19, she married a wealthy businessman named William Seton. They had five children. Inspired by St. Vincent de Paul, she founded a ladies group committed to charity towards the poor. When her husband became sick in 1803, they traveled to Italy to see doctors. After his death, she became a Catholic in 1805 because of the influence of the Italian family with whom she stayed. Elizabeth Ann Seton opened a school in Baltimore, the first Catholic school in America, and started a community of sisters called the Sisters of Charity. She died in 1821 and was canonized in 1975. She was the first native-born North American to be raised to sainthood.

January 5: St. John Neumann

Born in Bohemia on March 20, 1811, John dedicated his life to missionary work in the United States especially in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. He was ordained a priest in New York in 1836 and first worked with German immigrants near Niagara Falls. As a priest and later as a bishop, he worked tirelessly to educate the members of the Church. He became Bishop of Philadelphia in 1853. He increased the number of parochial schools in Philadelphia, founding the first Catholic diocesan school system in the US. He also instituted the Forty Hours Devotion, and constructed a cathedral. Bishop Neumann died on January 5, 1860, at the age of 48 when he collapsed from a sudden stroke. He was beatified in 1963, and canonized by Pope Paul VI in June 1977.

III. MARY

A. DAYS IN HONOR OF MARY (1172)

December 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Under the title of the Immaculate Conception, Mary is revered as the patroness of the United States and of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In 1854, Pope Pius IX declared: "From the first moment of her conception, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, by a unique grace and privilege of God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved from all stain of Original Sin." (CCC #490-91)

December 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, a poor Mexican Indian, on December 9, 1531.

Mary told Juan to build a Church. Juan went to the Bishop to tell him the Lady's request. The bishop did not believe him. Three days later, when Juan again went to the bishop and opened his cloak to give to the Bishop roses which the Lady had arranged in Juan's cloak, there was a picture of Mary on his cloak. The Bishop believed and built a church in honor of Mary. We honor Our Lady of Guadalupe because we recognize her concern for all people especially the suffering and the poor. December 9 is the feast of Saint Juan Diego. She is the patroness of the Americas.

January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

This feast of Mary is considered to be one of the oldest and most important feasts of Our Lady. In 431, the Council of Ephesus met to correct false teachings about Christ's divinity. The Council affirmed that Jesus is true God and true man. Since Mary is the Mother of Jesus, who is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, she can truly be called the Mother of God. Devotion to Mary as the Mother of God continued to spread from this time to the present.

February 2: Purification of Mary/Presentation of the Lord

Mary and Joseph presented the newborn Jesus at the Temple, according to Jewish law, forty days after his birth. They sacrificed a pair of turtledoves, according to the custom of the poor. At the temple, they met Simeon, a man whom God had promised would not die until he saw the Savior. Upon seeing Jesus, Simeon prayed, "Lord, now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled" (Luke 2:29). Simeon also prophesied to Mary, "A sword will pierce your soul, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35). The presentation of Jesus in the temple is the Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary.

February 11 Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes

Mary appeared to a fourteen year old girl named Bernadette Soubirous on February 11, 1858 in Lourdes, France. Our Lady appeared dressed in white with a blue sash, yellow roses at her feet and a rosary in her hand. Mary appeared eighteen times to Bernadette. The Lady told her many things among them that, although Bernadette would not find happiness in this life, she would find it in Heaven. She told her to pray for sinners and to do penance. The Blessed Mother told Bernadette to have a chapel built at the site where she appeared and that processions were to be held. When Bernadette asked the Lady what her name was, she said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Through Bernadette, the Blessed Mother called sinners to a change in heart, to reach out and care for the sick, the poor, and those who had lost hope. Each year millions of people make their way through the mountainous country of southeastern France to the shrine at Lourdes. They come to ask Jesus through the intercession of his Mother for a cure of their body or soul.

B. PRAYERS

1. The *Hail Mary*
2. The *Hail Holy Queen*
3. The *Rosary*
4. The *Memorare*
5. The *Angelus / Regina Coeli*
6. The *Magnificat*

C. BIBLICAL PLACES AND MARY

1. Ain-Karim
 - a. Church of the Visitation
 - b. Church of the Birth of St. John the Baptist
2. Bethlehem
3. Jerusalem

IV. PRAYER

A. DEFINITION

Mt. 7:7-11 (2590-91,
2594-96)

B. KINDS

1. Communal

Lk. 11:39,41-42

a. Sacramental celebrations

Lk. 22:40-46

b. Liturgy of the Hours

- 1) Purpose (1174)
- 2) Content (1176)
- 2. Private, personal Ps. 51, Mk. 6:46
 - a. Devotions Ps. 121
 - 1) Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass
 - a) Visits to the Blessed Sacrament
 - b) Benediction
 - c) Forty Hours
 - 2) The Stations of the Cross
 - 3) The Rosary
 - 4) Novenas
 - b. Other Forms (See pages 29-36)
 - 1) Shared Prayer
 - 2) Guided Meditation
 - 3) Journal Keeping

V. SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society.... In this time of widespread violence and diminished respect for human life and dignity in our country and around the world, the Gospel of life and the biblical call to justice need to be proclaimed and shared with new clarity, urgency, and energy. @ Sharing Catholic Social Teaching Challenges and Directions, USCC, 1998, p. 4

Major Themes:

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Solidarity of the Human Family

Care for God's Creation

A. AWARENESS OF THOSE WHO SUFFER

- 1. Participate in Lenten parish / school programs.
- 2. Discuss the ways injustice among human families

hurts everyone.

3. Discuss the problems people from other cultures face as compared to the ones they face.

B. AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF WORK

1. Discuss laws and organizations that help create safe working conditions.
2. Discuss purposes of boycotting companies and products.
3. Determine ways students can become better stewards of God=s earth.

Third Trimester

I. OLD TESTAMENT

A. MAJOR PERSONS AND EVENTS

1. Important Queens

a. Esther

Est. 2:15-18, 4C:12-30

b. Queen of Sheba 1Kgs. 10, 2 Chr. 9

2. Prophets

a. Definition (64, 218)
Spokesperson for God

b. Divisions

1) Major prophets

a) Isaiah, Is. 7:14; 9:5-6;11:1-5;
Prophet of the Messiah 29:18-21

b) Jeremiah, Jer. 1:4-10;18:1-6,31:31-34
Prophet of the New Covenant

c) Ezekiel, Ez. 36, 37
Prophet in Babylon During the Exile

2) Minor prophets

a) Amos Am. 2:6-8,13-16; 3:1-2;
Prophet of Social Justice 5:21-24

b) Hosea, Hos. 2:14-17, 19-23;
Prophet of the Faithful God 11:1-4, 8-11

c) Micah, Mi. 2:1-13; 4:1-12; 5:1;6:8
Prophet of Social Justice

3. Biblical Women

a. Ruth and Naomi Ruth 1:16
Devoted daughter-in-law

b. Tamar Gn. 38:25, Ru 4:12
Life preserved

c. Rahab Jos. 2, 6:20-25
Proclaimed power of God

d. Hannah 1 Sm. 1- 2:11, 18-21
Dedicated son to God

II. CHRIST FULFILLS THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. JOHN THE BAPTIST Lk. 3:1-22, (719)

Bridge between the Old and New Testament

B. JESUS CHRIST

- | | |
|---|---|
| Fulfillment of Old Testament Promises | Mt. 1:1-17 |
| 1. Incarnation | Lk. 1:26-38, (464, 470) |
| 2. Baptism and Public Life | Mk. 1:1-11, Lk. 4:16-21,
(535-36, 556-565) |
| 3. Redemption accomplished by Passion,
Death, and Resurrection | Mk. 15:39, Jn. 20:11-18
(619, 623) |
| 4. Established Church and ascended to
his Father | Acts 1:1-11; 2:1-12,
(659-72) |

III. LITURGICAL YEAR (1168-71)

A. EASTER SEASON (1168-69)

Sunset of Easter Sunday to sunset of the Solemnity of Pentecost

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Easter Sunday: liturgical color is white
for glory, joy, innocence | Mt. 28:1-15, Mk. 16:1-8,
Lk. 24:1-12, Jn. 20:1-10 |
| 2. Ascension Thursday: liturgical color is white
Marks the end of Jesus= earthly appearances | Mt. 28:16-20
Mk. 16:19-20
Lk. 24:50-53, Acts 1:6-12 |
| 3. Pentecost: liturgical color is red
for the Holy Spirit | Acts 2:1-4 |
| a. Fifty days after Easter | |
| b. The birthday of the Church | |

B. OTHER CELEBRATIONS

1. Trinity Sunday - Sunday after Pentecost
2. Corpus Christi (Body and Blood of Christ)
Sunday after Trinity Sunday

3. Solemnity of the Sacred Heart
Friday after the Second Sunday after Pentecost

- C. ORDINARY TIME: liturgical color is green for hope, growth, life
- D. SAINTS AND HOLY PEOPLE

July 22: St. Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene was one of the disciples of Jesus and appears in all four Gospels. Luke tells us that Jesus had cured Mary Magdalene of a disease. She followed Him and the Twelve Apostles as they traveled around Judea. However, her most important role was that of a witness to Jesus' death and resurrection. Together with Mary, the mother of James, she was there when Jesus was buried by Joseph of Aramathea. Mary Magdalene, along with other women, discovered the empty tomb. Most importantly, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene first after His resurrection. It is she who tells the Apostles the Good News. Although we do not know what happened to her, it is clear from the Gospels that she played an important role as a disciple of Jesus.

July 26: Ss. Anne and Joachim

Tradition tells us that Anne and Joachim were the parents of Mary. Although never mentioned by name in any of the gospels, many legends tell the story of how Anne and Joachim were childless for many years. After prayer and penance, an angel appeared and promised them a child. In return, they promised to dedicate this child to God. Although we may never know any historical facts about Anne and Joachim, we know that Mary was raised to be pure, full of grace, and a dedicated mother and wife. Her parents must have given her a strong example of love and faith, and it is for this reason that we know they are worthy of honor of being called the patron saints of mothers and fathers.

August 30: St. Jeanne Jugan

Sometimes called Sister Mary of the Cross, St. Jeanne Jugan was a French nun and founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor. She grew up during the French Revolution, a time when the Catholic faith was outlawed. Her mother secretly instructed her children in the catechism and Jeanne became a maid in the house of a devout Christian noble-woman. In 1817, Jeanne entered the Third Order of St. John Eudes as a laywoman. She worked as a nurse and again as a servant, always joyful and humble in the face of menial work. In 1839, Jeanne took in an elderly blind woman

and cared for her in her own home. By 1841, she had taken in so many elderly people that she needed to rent space in a nearby convent. This was the beginning of the Little Sisters of the Poor, dedicated to caring for abandoned elderly women. St. Jeanne went door to door and begged for money and food to give to these women. Although a priest refused to allow St. Jeanne to head up the order, a later investigation revealed her role in founding the community. Soon, more communities were founded throughout France. At the time of her death in 1879, there were 2,500 Little Sisters in Europe and North America.

IV. MARY

A. DAYS IN HONOR OF MARY

March 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation

The Annunciation is the feast commemorating the appearance of the Angel Gabriel to Mary. The angel told her that she had been chosen to be the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Most High God. Mary, through the power of the Holy Spirit, became the Mother of Jesus.

April 26: Our Lady of Good Counsel

The Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel began with an icon of Mary found in an Augustinian church in Genazzano, Italy in 1467. The icon, painted on a sheet of incredibly thin plaster, appeared to be suspended in mid-air. Devotion to this image of Our Lady of Good Counsel grew, and many miracles were reported. By 1753, Pope Benedict XIV approved the veneration for the faithful, called the Pious Union of Our Lady of Good Counsel. In 1893, Pope Leo XIII sanctioned the use of the White Scapular of Our Lady of Good Counsel for the faithful. Pope Pius XII dedicated his pontificate to the care of Our Lady of Good Counsel in 1939. This devotion has spread widely throughout the United States.

May 31 Feast of the Visitation Luke 1:39-56

The Presentation of Mary is a unique feast day. Although the event is not in the Bible, we learn from other sources that Mary's parents, Ann and Joachim, offered Mary to God in the Temple when she was only three years old. We celebrate this event because it helps us to Lord and obeying His will in all things.

May or June Immaculate Heart of Mary (Saturday following the Second Sunday after Pentecost)

July 16 Memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Mount Carmel is located on the coast of Israel, north of the city of Haifa. This was the place where the prophet Elijah confronted the pagan prophets of Baal. Around 1154, the Order of Mt. Carmel was founded at this ancient shrine. This contemplative order, called Carmelites, began to celebrate its patronal feast on July 16. According to the tradition of the order, on that day in 1251, Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock, a Carmelite in England. She gave him the brown scapular as a sign of her love and protection. A full scapular is a long piece of cloth worn over a religious habit. Today a scapular may be a medal or two pieces of cloth connected by a cord. Carmelites and others who wear the scapular honor the Blessed Mother by wearing it.

C. PRAYER

1. The *Joyful* Mysteries of the Rosary
2. The *Sorrowful* Mysteries of the Rosary
3. The *Glorious* Mysteries of the Rosary
4. The *Luminous* Mysteries of the Rosary

V. PRAYER

A. SOURCES OF PRAYER

1. The Word of God (2653-54)
2. The Liturgy of the Church (2655)
3. The Theological Virtues (2656-58)

VI. SOCIAL JUSTICE

Review of First and Second Trimesters.

Grade 6

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION

In the United States, there are six holydays

1. Mary, Mother of God, January 1
2. Ascension Thursday
3. Assumption, August 15
4. All Saints, November 1
5. Immaculate Conception, December 8
6. Christmas, December 25