

# Heart of Mary Cluster

## CURRICULUM K–8<sup>th</sup> Grades

### *“Christ Our Life”* Publisher: Loyola Press

**Kindergarten** – The *God Loves Us* program uses a variety of methods and techniques to convey the message that God loves each us, integrates age-appropriate prayer experiences, incorporates Scripture and church doctrine to help children to understand and live out their faith in their daily lives.

#### **First Grade: Theme “God is Good-Salvation”**

Provides a simple overview of the mysteries of our faith. Through learning of the goodness of God, and the love of Jesus, the children respond to God in friendship and prayer. The children should:

- Become aware of God’s presence and goodness in their lives, in others, in the world, and in his Church.
- Respond to God’s goodness by loving him and others.

#### **Second Grade: Theme “God Cares for Us – Eucharist & Reconciliation”**

Prepares the children for their first celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. The children should:

- Come to realize God’s loving care for them, especially through the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.
- Respond to God’s call to give themselves in loving service to him and to others.

#### **Third Grade: Theme “We Believe – The Catholic Faith”**

Presents the main truths Catholics believe and express in the Apostles’ Creed. The children should:

- Grow in the power to make decisions in the light of God’s Revelation and the redemptive acts of Jesus.
- Come to knowledge and an appreciation of the mysteries of their faith expressed in the Apostles’ Creed.

#### **Fourth Grade: Theme “God Guides us – The Ten Commandments/Beatitudes”**

Focuses on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as guides for living. The children should:

- Grow in understanding and appreciation of God’s call to eternal life and his everpresent and loving guidance.
- Choose to live the Commandments in the spirit of the Beatitudes.

#### **Fifth Grade: Theme “We Worship – The Liturgy of the Mass”**

Focuses on the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, the center of Christian life. The children should:

- Grow in their appreciation of the Church as a worshipping community, and of Christ's action among us in the Eucharistic liturgy and in the sacraments.
- Give worship to God by prayer, loving service, and celebrating the liturgical seasons.

**Sixth Grade: Theme “God Calls a People – The Old Testament”**

Devoted to the study of God's saving love as it is revealed in Sacred Scripture, particularly the Old Testament. The children should:

- Come to a deeper appreciation of the person of Christ and of his presence in his Church through the study of salvation history.
- Grow in their relationship with God and in giving witness of their faith.

**Seventh Grade: Theme “Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life – Jesus Christ”**

Devoted to the study of God's saving love as it is revealed through his Son, Jesus. *Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life* is designed to help young adolescents grow in their knowledge of Jesus, that they may love him more ardently and serve him more generously. The student should:

- Grow in knowledge and love of Jesus through prayer and studying the Gospels
- Appreciate that the sacraments enable them to respond to the call to follow Jesus, live by his teachings, and proclaim God's kingdom in word, worship, witness and service.

**Eighth Grade: Theme “The Church Then and Now – The Holy Spirit/Church History”**

Devoted to the study of God's faithful love as it is revealed in the Church founded by Jesus Christ. *The Church Then and Now* is designed to help young teens grow in their knowledge and love of the Church. The student should:

- Come to a deeper understanding of the Church by studying its images, history, and members.
- Grow in love for Catholic beliefs and ritual and strive to respond to God's love through Christian morality, service, prayer, and witness.

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**High School (Grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>):**

High school students will study the following topics for the 2018-2019: **Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church and The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery).**

**Life Teen** will be the main program used for grades 9-12. Life Teen takes teens out of the classroom and uses a combined large and small group model to help teens grow in their relationship with Christ. Students will also continue to gain familiarity with *Sacred Scripture* as well as become comfortable with looking up topics in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Students in grades 9-12 also have the option of starting a *YDisciple* small discipleship group if they cannot attend Life Teen on Wednesday evenings.

*Catholic Essentials* is the textbook used for high school students who are homeschooled.