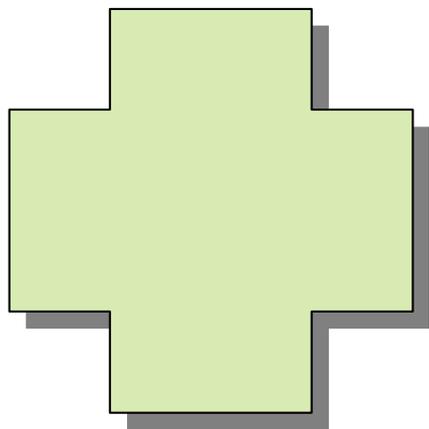


**LOYOLA PRESS “FINDING GOD”**  
**CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

**HOLY TRINITY AND XII APOSTLES**  
**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION**  
**GRADES PRE-K - EIGHTH**



**PRE-SCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN**

The kindergarten program is designed to invite the children to discover God’s great love shown through the many good things God has placed in their world. A simple introduction to the mysteries of the faith as expressed by the Apostles’ Creed is presented to help the children grow in understanding and appreciation of God’s love for them.

In the first unit, “Learn about God’s Love”, the children are invited to respond to God’s goodness with a sense of wonder, reverence, and gratitude. After learning about the holiness of God’s name, the holy Bible, and the marvels of creation, the children are led to respond to God’s love through prayer.

In the second unit, “Growing in God’s Love”, the children consider their uniqueness as a gift from God and are led to respond with gratitude.

In the third unit, “Sharing God’s Love”, the children deepen their awareness of God’s love for them and their appreciation of their uniqueness. They are drawn to love God in return by praying and asking forgiveness.

In the fourth unit, “Celebrating God’s Love”, the children continue to celebrate God’s love for them, especially as they learn about Jesus’ gift of new life and about Easter. The children are introduced to the Holy Spirit who helps them live as Jesus did so that they can have joy and life forever with God.

***AT THE END OF THE PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN YEAR:***

*The children will be familiar with the following concepts and prayers - the Sign of the Cross, how to fold their hands for prayer, how to take holy water from the holy water font, a Blessing Before Meals, Bedtime Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, the Lord's Prayer and Hail Mary.*



**FIRST GRADE**

From our textbooks the children will learn that God is our Creator and loves us as our Father. Jesus came to tell us about God the Father and saves us through his life, death, and resurrection. The Holy Spirit shares the life of the risen Jesus Christ and forms the community of the Church. We know Jesus through personal prayer and by worshiping God together, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist. We can thank Jesus for the gift of himself and the Holy Spirit by obeying the Commandments, caring for one another and caring for the world.

***AT THE END OF THE FIRST GRADE YEAR: the children will know the following: everything reviewed at the beginning of the year, and Prayer to My Guardian Angel, Blessing Before Meals (Bless Us, O Lord), Morning Prayer and be familiar with The Ten Commandments, The Great Commandment, and The Sacraments (especially Baptism and Reconciliation).***

**SECOND GRADE**

*This is the class we prepare for First Reconciliation and First Communion. The focus is on First Reconciliation during the first semester and First Communion in the second semester.*

*We will learn what sin is, how to make an examination of conscience, and how to make a good confession. We will go into detail about what the Eucharist is and why it is so important to receive whenever we can. We also go through parts of the Mass to explain when the bread becomes the body, and the wine, the blood.*

From our textbooks the children will learn God loves each of us and we are called to act on God's love for us by loving one another, by living as Jesus wants us to live. As we prepare for the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, we give special attention to examination of conscience, how to make a good confession and importance of preparation to receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

***AT THE END OF THE SECOND GRADE YEAR: the students will know everything that was expected at the end of the previous two years, what Reconciliation is and how to make an "examination of conscience" and a good confession, what Holy Communion is and how to receive it, the names of all the sacraments, the simple responses of Mass, an Act of Contrition (of the type they can use into their adult lives). They will also know the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment. They will be familiar with the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross.***



### **BEFORE MAKING FIRST CONFESSION AND**

**FIRST COMMUNION** *a person has to be living as a follower of Jesus in the context of the Catholic Church.*

*This means one has to be a baptized Catholic keeping the promises made at Baptism by living according to the practices of the Catholic Church. Specifically, one must:*

*a) be abiding by the Ten Commandments and the rules of the Catholic Church.*

*b) be going to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day.*

*c) have knowledge of the Faith appropriate to one's age level. This is determined by our Religious Education Director. The appropriate level of knowledge can be judged in accordance with the contents of the student's Home Study Guide which each teacher has for their grade and which is given to each student when classes begin.*

*d) the family must be registered members of a parish, and, within their financial means, contributing to the support of the church.*

### **THIRD GRADE**

From our textbooks the children will learn that God creates us good and calls us to live in community. We emphasize the role of the Jesus calling us to a new way of life—what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus and how close Jesus wants us to be with out Father. We learn how each of the sacraments deepens our relationship with God and how the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity are the foundation for the moral choices we make as we grow to be like Jesus.

***AT THE END OF THE THIRD GRADE YEAR: the students will know everything that was expected at the end of the previous three years, and how to pray the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, the Apostles' Creed, Prayer to the Holy Spirit, the Rules of the Church, the Theological Virtues, and the order of the Mass. They will be familiar with the Mysteries of the Rosary the Stations of the Cross, the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and the Beatitudes.***

### **FOURTH GRADE**

From our textbooks the students will learn that God calls us to lead a moral life. He revealed the Ten Commandments to provide us with the parameters to live a life for God and others. Jesus taught us the Beatitudes and their relationship to living a Christian life. We give special attention to Sacraments of Healing and Sacraments at the Service of Communion as part of the moral dimension of our faith.

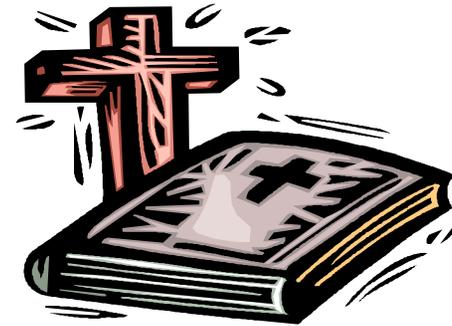
***AT THE END OF THE FOURTH GRADE YEAR:***  
*the students will know everything that was expected at the end of the previous four years and the Mass Prayers (the Confiteor, “I Confess...” and The Gloria, “Glory to God...”.) They will also know the Memorare, Memorial Acclamations, Prayer to the Holy Spirit, and the Mysteries of the Rosary. They will be familiar with the Cardinal Virtues, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.*

### **FIFTH GRADE**

From our textbooks the students will be strengthened in sacramental life of the Church and are better able to live like Jesus in making choices for God and others. We enter into a new way of life when we celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation. Through the sacraments we live more fully in the Holy Spirit as members of the Church, united in diversity under the magisterium\*. The fullness of our life in Jesus Christ will find completion at the Last Judgment when we face our Savior.

***AT THE END OF THE FIFTH GRADE YEAR:***  
*the students will know everything that was expected at the end of the previous five years, especially the concepts and prayers listed above. In addition, they should know how to find a text in the Bible, the Seven Sacraments, Holy Days of Obligation, the Beatitudes, the Theological Virtues (Faith, Hope, and Charity) and the Cardinal Virtues (Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude). They will be familiar with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Fruits of the Holy Spirit and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.*

*\*Magisterium, the living, teaching office of the Church. This office, through the bishops and with the pope, provides an authentic interpretation of the Word of God. It ensures faithfulness to the teaching of the Apostles in matters of faith and morals. (From Loyola Press, “Finding God “ 5<sup>th</sup> grade glossary)*



### **SIXTH GRADE**

***DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR the students will receive their own Youth Bible and learn about the connection of the Old Testament and New Testament.***

From our textbooks the students will explore the history of salvation—from Creation through the Old Testament, to its fulfillment in Jesus—as we share stories of our ancestors in faith: Abraham, Moses, David and Solomon. We recognize the importance of the prophets as witnesses for God and their relevance to our own time. As followers of Jesus, we explore the meaning of the Psalms as the prayers of Jesus and the themes of Wisdom Literature that teach practical ways of living for God in everyday life. We find our connection to Christian worship from its roots in the Old Testament, and we learn of the special connection between the celebration of Passover and the celebration of the Eucharist. Important themes of Catholic Social Teaching call us to holiness, to care for the earth, and to act in the ways of justice.

**AT THE END OF THE SIXTH GRADE YEAR:**

*the students will know everything that was expected at the end of the previous six years, especially how to go to Confession, how to make an examination of conscience, an Act of Contrition, the Ten Commandments, the Rules of the Church, and all prayers and responses for Mass.*

**SEVENTH GRADE**

***Finding God, Following Jesus – Theme “Why 4 Gospels?”***

**JOHN EXPLORES THE MYSTERY OF GOD:**

The Gospel of John shows us that the revelation of God is fulfilled in Jesus Christ; that Jesus is the center of the Gospels; that God is revealed as three Persons in one God; that Faith is a gift from God; and that through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is with us.

**MARK TEACHES US ABOUT JESUS:**

Mark’s Gospel teaches us that Jesus is true God and true man; that Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God; that Jesus offers us forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance; that Jesus offers us healing in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick; and that in death, Jesus’ true identity is revealed.

**MATTHEW PRESENTS THE NEW MOSES:**

Matthew’s Gospel teaches us that our foundation in life is Emmanuel - “God is with us.”; that the Beatitudes challenge us to go beyond the letter of the law; that Jesus teaches us to transform society with the Gospel; that Jesus calls the church to service; and that in Matrimony, a man and a woman model the relationship between Christ and the Church.

**LUKE CELEBRATES JESUS’ PRESENCE:**

Luke’s Gospel proclaims the joy of salvation in Jesus for all people; that Jesus saves us through the sacraments; that God changes our lives with the waters of Baptism; that in the Sacrament of confirmation, the Holy Spirit inspires us to dream God’s dream; that Jesus feeds his people through the Eucharist.

**PAUL PROCLAIMS JESUS TO THE WORLD:**

The letters of St. Paul teach us that we turn to God to be justified; we honor the Lord’s Day and respect those in authority; the Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices; we are God’s coworkers; and that we are called to live in a spirit of truth and generosity.

***AT THE END OF THE SEVENTH GRADE YEAR: the students should know everything that was expected at the end of the previous years, especially how to go to Confession, how to make an examination of conscience at this age level, An Act of Contrition, the requirements for receiving Communion, The Ten Commandments, The Rules of the Church and the prayers and responses at Mass, and the Holy Days of Obligation in the United States. They should be reacquainted with the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Beatitudes.***



## **EIGHTH GRADE**

### ***Finding God, Celebrating Church – Theme “Does God Really Care for Us?”***

#### **GOD’S REVELATION:**

God made everything good and entrusts us with caring for his creation; God reveals himself to us through his son, Jesus Christ; the Holy Spirit builds, animates, and sanctifies the Church and teaches us to pray; God is near to us and science helps us to understand the nature of God’s creation; we share in Jesus’ mission to bring salvation to the whole human family.

#### **JESUS, OUR HOPE:**

Jesus teaches us to live in relationship with the Father and one another; Jesus is fully human and fully God; through Jesus’ Cross and Resurrection, we have new life; we are called to spread the Good News of salvation through Jesus throughout the world; Jesus’ Resurrection is the foundation of our hope.

#### **PROCLAIMING JESUS:**

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the early Church proclaimed the Good News to the world; the early church developed a deeper understanding of Jesus and a more clearly defined structure; during the Dark Ages, the Church endured many difficulties and remained a light to the world; during the Middle Ages, the Church was in need of reform and renewal; and the Church responds to the challenges of the world.

#### **LIFE IN JESUS:**

Through the Sacraments of Initiation, we enter into new life in Jesus and the Church; through Baptism and Confirmation, we enter into new life in Jesus and the Church; the Eucharist

is the foundation and high point of our life as Catholics; in the Sacraments of Penance and Anointing of the sick, we experience Jesus’ healing touch; through the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony, priests and married people serve the People of God.

#### **CHOOSING JESUS:**

The Ten Commandments teach us to live in relationship with God and others; we learn respect for authority and respect for human life from our families, the domestic church; the Sixth Commandment teaches us to be chaste and faithful in our relationships; the Seventh Commandment teaches us to share the goods of God’s creation with others; the Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments teach us to honor the truth and to respect others.

***AT THE END OF THE EIGHTH GRADE YEAR: the students should know everything that was expected at the end of the previous years, especially how to go to Confession, how to make an examination of conscience at this age level, An Act of Contrition, the requirements for receiving Communion, The Ten Commandments, The Rules of the Church and the prayers and responses at Mass, and the Holy Days of Obligation in the United States. They should be reacquainted with the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Beatitudes.***

