

Catholic Connections 7

The Holy Spirit and the Church (7th Grade)

Session 1-The Holy Spirit

-Objectives:

- .Explore the meaning of the Holy Spirit as the Breath of God
- .Understand that the Holy Spirit has always been present with the Father and the Son, and that together they are responsible for creation
- .Name concrete ways that they see the Holy Spirit present in the world

-Resources

- .The Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 15
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 279-320 (The Creator); 702-716 (God's Spirit and Word in the Time of the Promises); 717-725 (The Spirit of Christ in the Fullness of Time); 731-747 (The Spirit of the Church in the Last Days); 852 (Mission)

-Scripture

- .Galatians 5:22-25; Genesis 1:1-2; Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 11:2; John 14:6-17; John 20:22

-Supplies

- .Balloons
- .Box for inflated balloons
- .Art supplies

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .Galatians 5:22-25
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Every Breath You Take

- .Balloons
- .What is the "Breath of Life?"

-The Holy Spirit: The Breath of God!

- .Image of breath to describe the Holy Spirit
- .CCH-p.165-170
- .Holy Spirit like breathing, we aren't aware of it but it is necessary for life

- .Breath of God
- .We believe that the Holy Spirit gives us everything we need to live as Jesus' disciples
- .Genesis 1:1-2
- .Luke 4:18-19
- .Jesus promised disciples to send helper, Holy Spirit
- .Pentecost, Holy Spirit came upon Apostles

-Headline News: Spirit Success Stories

- .How do we recognize presence of Holy Spirit?
- .CCH-p.165
- .Resource 1A
- .Newsprint, marker

-Optional Session Extension

- .Images and Symbols of the Holy Spirit
 - .Art supplies
 - .Symbols of Holy Spirit (water, fire, cloud and light)
 - .CCH-p.167
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.170
- .Balloon
- .Large box

-Media Connections

- .Movie, *Simon Burch*

Session 2: Grace and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

-Objectives

- .Define God's grace and recognize the presence of God's grace in their lives
- .Understand that God's grace makes it possible for them to fulfill their job descriptions as Christians
- .Describe the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 16
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 1830-1832 (gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit); 1996-2005 (grace); 2006-2011 (merit); 1987-1995 (grace and justification)

-Scripture

.John 13:34-35; Matthew 7:16-17, 22:34-40

-Supplies

.index cards
.gift boxes with lids
.wrapping paper
.colored ribbon
.three buzzers or bells

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

.John 13:34-35
.Prayer
.Overview

-Guess Whose Gift?

.Best gift in the world-"God's grace"

-God's Grace: Let It In!

.CCH-p.174; 177-180
.We receive God's grace from the Holy Spirit
.At Baptism the Spirit breathes God's love into us
.Draws us into close relationship with God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit
.Cannot earn gift of grace
.God's grace, his love, transforms us from the inside out.
.Gifts of the Holy Spirit are special graces that help us respond to God's love and live holy lives

-Optional Session Extension

.Fulfilling the Christian Job Description
.CCH-p.177
.Discussion Starters

-The Help We Need

.Seven groups-Gifts of the Holy Spirit Jeopardy game
.Index cards,buzzer/bell,
.CCH-p.180-182
.Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to live as disciples of Jesus
.God gives us everything we need to love him and one another

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.180
- .Box, gift wrap, ribbon, etc.
- .Prayer

-Media

- .*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Session 3: Pentecost and the Early Church

-Objectives

- .Understand that the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was a central event in the life of the early Church and in the spread of Christianity
- .Describe ways the Holy Spirit was at work in the early Church

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 17
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 731-732 (Pentecost); 737-741 (The Holy Spirit and the Church)

-Scripture

- .John 14:26; Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11, 2:1-47, 3:1-10, 4:23-31, 6:1-8, 8:26-40, 10:1-48, 12:6-18, 15:1-29

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .John 14:26
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Back to the Future

- .CCH-p.184

-Pentecost

- .Pentecost central event in early Church which greatly impacted how Christianity spread
- .Acts of Apostles window into earliest days of Christianity
- .Jesus left Apostles promise he would send Holy Spirit to guide them
- .From the moment of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit takes charge
- .Christians are to spread Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth

-Starring . . . the Holy Spirit

.Acts 1:1-9, 2:2-13, 2:43-47, 3:1-10, 4:23-31, 6:1-8, 8:26-40,
10:1-48, 12:6-18, 15:1-29

-Optional Session Extension

.Acts of the Disciples
.Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

.CCH-p.190
.Apostles 2:1-4

-Media

.*The Time Machine*

Session 4: The Mission of the Church

-Objectives:

.Differentiate between the Church and other types of communities
.Recognize that God calls everyone to be a part of the Church
.Identify how various images help us to understand the mystery of
the Church

-Resources:

.Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 18
.Catechism of the Catholic Church 781-786 (People of God); 787-796
(The Body of Christ); 797-798 (Temple of the Holy Spirit); 811-865
(One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic)

-Scripture:

.John 17:20-23, 1 Peter 2:9, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, 1 Corinthians 3:16

-Supplies:

.index cards
.box or basket
.poster board, art supplies

-Quick-Start Activity

.index cards
.box or basket

-Opening Prayer

- .John 17:20-23
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Identifying Groups

- .The Church is a convocation, or community, called together in response to God's call. God calls everyone to be a part of the Church

-Images of the Church

- .CCH-p.196-200
- .People of God are of God because they belong to God. Through Baptism and faith in Jesus Christ, we become members of God's People
- .Body of Christ-Christ lives in and with the Church, and the Church exists because of Christ
- .Temple of the Holy Spirit is a place where God dwells. Spirit is the center or soul of Church's life and source of Church's unity and gifts

-Optional Session Extension

- .Marks of the Church
- .Resource 4A
- .CCH-p.200-205
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.200
- .People of God (1 Peter 2:9)
- .Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)
- .Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16)

-Media

- .*Prince of Egypt*

Session 5: The Structure of the Church

-Objectives

- .Understand how the various roles of the ordained, consecrated, and laity contribute to the life and mission of the Church
- .Identify ways baptized believers share in Jesus Christ's mission to make Christ known in the world
- .Express how baptized believers participate in the priestly, prophetic, and

kingly mission of Christ today

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 19
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 871-879 (The Church's hierarchy); 901-903 (The participation of laypeople in Christ's priestly office); 904-907 (Participation in Christ's prophetic office); 908-913 (Participation in Christ's kingly office)

-Scripture

- .Matthew 28:18-20

-Supplies

- .magazines
- .poster board
- .art materials

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .Matthew 28:18-20
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Ways People Share Jesus

- .Praying, teaching, serving

-Priest, Prophet, King

- .Help others know, love, and serve Jesus through their words and actions
- .Roles in Church that help people know, love, and serve Jesus
- .CCH-p.208-215
- .Jesus entrusted Apostles to carry his message to ends of earth
- .Pope entrusted caretaker of souls
- .Ordained teach faith, celebrate sacraments, guide people
- .Non-ordained important role
- .Consecrated men/women promise life of poverty, chastity, and obedience
- .Laity making Christ's presence known and shared in the world
- .All connected through Baptism-none more important than the other
- .Our anointing in Baptism signifies that as members of the Church, we participate in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission
- .Baptized share by living holy lives at home, school, work, community, etc.
- .Actions show we are people of faith, hope, and love
- .Prophetic mission shared when we point others to God
- .Kingly mission shared when we serve others as Christ did

-You(ng People) Make a Difference Mural

.Poster—How we live Priest, Prophet, or King as youth today

-Optional Session Extension

.Participating in Christ's Mission

.Guest from parish

.CCH-p.212-213

.Resource 5A

.Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

.CCH-p.212

-Media

."Go Make a Difference," Steve Angrisano

Session 6: End Things: Heaven and Hell

-Objectives

.Understand that Heaven and hell are not actual places, as we generally understand the word *place* to mean a fixed location, but states of being where we either experience perfect union and happiness with God (Heaven) or total separation from God (hell)

.Reflect on how loving or refusing to love others is a crucial test of whether we can be united with God for eternity

.Apply Jesus' teaching on what is required of us to live in the Reign of God, as outlined in Matthew 25:31-46, to situations in their lives

-Resources

.Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 20

.Catechism of the Catholic Church 1023-1029 (Heaven); 1033-1037 (Hell); 1021-1022 (The Particular Judgment); 1038-1041 (The Last Judgment); 1030-1032 ((The Final Purification, or Purgatory)

-Scripture

.John 11:25-26, Matthew 25:31-46

-Supplies

.magazines

.simple props (hats, canes, lunch boxes, blankets, etc.)

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

.John 11:25-26

.Prayer

.Overview

-Heaven Is . . .

.CCH-p.218

.God's desire for us is to be with him

.Heaven is not a place but a state of being in perfect friendship and happiness with God for all eternity

.Journey to heaven begins on earth with attitudes and actions we choose

.Hell is the opposite; a state of total separation for God, forever

.Again, Hell is brought on by our conscious decision to turn away from God

.We can do nothing to earn God's love; it is a free gift; it is up to us to respond to God's love and accept his invitation to be with him

.We respond to God's love by the way we live

-Choosing Heaven by How We Live on Earth

.Matthew; what will happen at the Last Judgment

.Matthew 25:31-46

.Recourse 6A

.Jesus uses images of hunger, thirst, nakedness, illness, isolation, and imprisonment to symbolize basic human needs

.When we help or hinder others from attaining these we help or hinder not only them but also Jesus

-Optional Session Extension

.CCH-p.219

.Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

.CCH-p.224

.Matthew 25:31-46

-Media

.*All Dogs Go to Heaven*

Session 7: Saints and Mary

-Objectives

- .Examine how Mary and the saints embody what it means to be holy and how they are examples to us of what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ
- .Learn more about specific saints and people of faith
- .Recognize that prayer strengthens our communion with the saints

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 21
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 956-962 (Communion with the Saints); 1195 (Memorials of Mary and the Saints); 963-972 (Mary and the Church)
- .Reference books about saints and people of faith

-Scripture

-Supplies

- .art supplies/props
- .colored construction paper
- .refreshments
- .large piece of fabric
- .index cards

-Quick-Start Activity

- .index cards

-Opening Prayer

- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Inquiring Minds Want to Know

- .Define saint or holy person
- .What does it mean to be a person of faith

-Mary and the Saints, Our Heavenly Friends

- .We all rely on friends but have heavenly friends to rely on also
- .Mary is one of our heavenly friends. She is joined in Heaven with saints and all others who have died in the Lord
- .Special connection to heavenly friends who help connect us to Jesus
- .People among us show us what it means to be faithful followers ("living saints")
- .Saints embody what it means to be holy (to seek God and be filled with

God)

.Mary gave birth to Son of God and is mother of all Christians. Mary was totally filled with God

.Saints examples of what it means to be disciples of Jesus

.Saints can inspire us

.Just as we pray for others, we can ask the saints and all those who believe-both living and dead-to pray for us and to bring our needs before God. This is called the communion of saints

-People of Faith

.CCH

.Refreshments

-Optional Session Extension

.People of Faith Quilt

.Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

.CCH-p.233

.Strips of colored construction paper

.Resource 7A

.Litany: a form of prayer in which one person leads and the rest of group respond

-Media

.*Entertaining Angels: The Story of Dorothy Day*

.*Brother Sun, Sister Moon*

.*Therese: The Story of Saint Therese of Lisieux*

.*Mother Teresa*

Session 8: Dealing with Peer Pressure

-Objectives

.Define and understand the effects of social pressure

.Identify both positive and negative experiences of peer pressure

.Apply strategies for combating negative peer pressure to everyday experiences

-Resources

.Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapters 15-16

.Catechism of the Catholic Church 1830-1832 (Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit); 1996-2005 (Grace)

-Scripture

.Proverbs 1:10-18, 2:9-12

-Supplies

.tire gauge, bicycle tire inner tube, and bicycle tire pump

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

.Proverbs 1:10-18, 2:9-12

-Understanding the Effects of Pressure

.tire gauge, flat bicycle inner tube, bicycle tire pump

.Tire pressure/life pressure

.Tools to deal with pressure

-What is Peer Pressure?

.Peer pressure is a social pressure put on someone by others, causing that person to act in a certain way or to accept certain beliefs in order to be accepted by those others

.Social pressure can be good for us, just like a certain amount of pressure is good for a tire's performance

.Negative social pressure can cause us to self-destruct

.Which gifts of the Holy Spirit would be helpful in combating peer pressure?

.CCH-p.180-182

-Optional Session Extension

.What Would You Do?

.Handout 8A

.Discussion Starters

-Peer Pressure Role-Plays

.Resource 8A

-Closing Prayer

.Prayer

.Resource 8B

-Media

.*Thirteen Going on Thirty*

Session 9: Role Models: Whom Should I Look Up To?

-Objectives

- .Reflect on the qualities and values most important to them, and on the qualities and values of Christian disciples
- .Define a role model and identify various types of role models
- .Identify the characteristics of Christian role models

-Resources

- .Catholic Connection Handbook, Chapter 15
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 736, 1830-1832 (Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit)

-Scripture

- .Colossians 3:12-17, 1 Timothy 4:12-15

-Supplies

- .dictionaries
- .magazines
- .craft supplies

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .Colossians 3:12-17
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-What Do You Value?

- .CCH-p.165
- .What qualities and values do people who are filled with God's Spirit possess?

-What Is a Role Model?

- .Define role model
- .Magazines
- .Being a winner or being famous are oftentimes so valued that some people cheat to attain the status. This contradicts what Jesus tells us about how to live
- .Christian role models are people we look to as our guides for how to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. Their attitudes and actions show us how we can love God, others, and ourselves

-Optional Session Extension

- .High School Young People Role Models
- .Discussion Starters

-Christian Role Models

-Closing Prayer

- .1 Timothy 4:12-15
- .Prayer

-Media

- .*Remember the Titans*

Session 10: The Holy Spirit and the Church Celebration

-Objectives

- .Review what they have learned during previous sessions with an option for parental involvement
- .Celebrate the times they have spent time together learning and growing in their faith and friendship

-Resources

- .Review seven core sessions and corresponding content in CCH

-Scripture

- .Psalm 67

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .Psalm 67
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-On the Hot Seat

- .Basket
- .Questions from Resource 10A

-The Spirit and the Church Tasks

- .Resource 10B

-Optional Session Extension

- .The Spirit and the Church Visual Presentation
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

Sacraments and Prayer – Grade 7

Session 1: Sacraments: Celebrating Christ's Presence

-Objectives:

- .Understand that visible objects and actions help us to recognize the invisible realities in our lives
- .Understand that the sacraments are visible encounters that help us to recognize the invisible reality of Christ's loving presence

-Resources:

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 23
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 1077-1112 (liturgy); 1113-1134 (sacraments); 1667-1679 (sacramentals)

-Scripture:

- .Matthew 28:18-20, Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4, Luke 22:19-20, John 20:23, Luke 4:40, Ephesians 5:31-33, Hebrews 5:5-6

-Supplies:

- .balloons
- .parish bulletin

-Quick-Start Activity:

-Opening Prayer:

- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Celebration Super Sleuth

- .balloons
- .Invisible realities in our lives
- .Common for people to use rituals to celebrate invisible realities
- .Handout 1A

-Seven Sacraments Super Sleuth

- .We believe God loves us and showers us with love every day. God's loving presence in our lives is grace
- .Seven sacraments
- .Sacraments do not simply represent invisible reality; real-life encounters with God
- .CCH-p.254-256, 261
- .Handout 1A

-Sacraments in My Parish

-Optional Session Extension

- .parish bulletin
- .parishes provide much more than sacramental celebrations
- .every aspect of parish life can help us become aware of Christ's presence
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.256
- .Resource 1A
- .Handout 1B

-Media

- .Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who*

Session 2: The Eucharist (February 14)

-Objectives:

- .Recognize that the Eucharist has a connection to Passover and the Last Supper
- .Understand that the Eucharist is a celebration of Christ's presence now

-Resources:

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 24
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 1322-1419 (the Eucharist)

-Scripture

- .Exodus, Chapter 12; Luke 22:7-9; Luke 22:14-20

-Supplies

- .cups, plates, napkins
- .snack and beverage

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .Prayer
- .Handout 2A

-Passover: The First "Fast Food" Feast

- .snacks, beverage, napkins
- .Eucharist greatest sacrament, a sacred meal of thanksgiving and sacrifice

that unites us with Jesus and with one another

.Exodus, Chapter 12

. *The Prince of Egypt*

.Jewish people had to prepare to leave in a hurry and held quick farewell meal

.At the time Jewish people were slaves in Egypt. God sent Moses to free them and lead them to new home. . .

.CCH-p.267

-The Last Supper and the Eucharist

.Jesus celebrated a very special Passover with his disciples before his Crucifixion called the Last Supper

.Luke 22:7-9, 14-20

.At Mass we call Jesus the Lamb of God

.CCH-p.268

-Celebrating the Eucharist Today

.Jesus is fully present to us in Mass today

-Optional Session Extension

.Mass: Doing What Jesus Did

.Mass comes from Latin word for sent

.Sent to continue Jesus' mission

.Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

.CCH-p.267

."Mirror Meditation" cards

.Handout 1B

-Media

. *The Prince of Egypt*

Session 3: Baptism and Confirmation

-Objectives

.Identify Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist as Sacraments of Initiation

.Recognize that being baptized makes us members of the Church

-Resources

.Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapters 28-29

.Catechism of the Catholic Church 1275-1284 (Baptism), 1315-1321 (Confirmation)

-Scripture

.Matthew 28:18-20, John 3:5, Romans 6:4

-Supplies

.index cards
.sm bowl of water (Holy Water)
.football or soccer ball
.Baptismal items (photo, gown, candle)
.sm prizes

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

.Prayer
.Overview

-Initiation into the Game of Life

.Infants baptized
.RCIA
.Waters of Baptism give us new life in Christ
.Confirmation given strength to live the Christian life
.Eucharist nourishes us to live as Christ by serving others
.Three Sacraments of Initiation
.Handout 3A

-The Experience of Baptism

.RCIA
.Guest speaker (who can speak about being baptized)
.Alternative (CCH-p.315-316)

-My "Game Plan"

.Baptism items

-Optional Session Extension

.As Christians, parents are our first coaches
.Need others also
.Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

.CCH-p.315
."Mirror Meditations"
.Handout 1B

-Media

.My Big Fat Greek Wedding

Session 4: The Sacraments of Healing

-Objectives

- .Understand that the Church offers healing and forgiveness to those in need
- .Become familiar with the celebration of the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick in their parish so they will be comfortable asking for them when they, a friend, or a family member would benefit from them

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapters 30 & 33
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 1420-1496 (The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation), 1499-1532 (The Anointing of the Sick)

-Scripture

-Supplies

- .6" pieces of string
- .red/blue markers
- .recent local newspapers
- .sm bowl of water (Holy Water)

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

-Healing and Forgiveness for All

- .CCH-p.132, 339, 384
- .Sacraments of "Healing" through which God gives those who have sinned or are sick strength to live the life God wants for all of us

-Visit the Church

- .Handout 4A
- .Oil of the Sick
- .Anointing of Sick-priest uses laying on of hands which signifies calling of the Holy Spirit upon the person
- .Oil blessed by bishop once a year at Chrism Mass during Holy Week

-Optional Session Extension

- .Bringing Healing and Forgiveness

- .List of parish sick and addresses
- .construction paper
- .Create cards
- .CCH-p.353
- .Discussion Starters

-Seeking Healing and Forgiveness

- .Examination of Conscience
- .6" pieces of string

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.339
- ."Mirror Meditations"
- .Handout 1B

-Media

- .*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Session 5: Matrimony and Holy Orders

-Objectives

- .Understand the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders as Sacraments of Service
- .Recognize that God calls them to consider how they can use their gifts to serve others

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 31
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 1534-1600 (Holy Orders), 1601-1666 ((Matrimony),

-Scripture

- .Ephesians 5:31, 1 Peter 2:9

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .1 Peter 2:9
- .God calls each of us to a life of service; It is our job to make the best of our gifts
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Vocation: God's Task for Each One of Us!

- .CCH-p.358
- .Single life and religious life do not involve a special sacramental celebration beyond Baptism. The baptismal call to serve is the foundation of these roles
- .People who are married, single, or vowed members of religious communities –who are not ordained-are called laypeople (laity).

-Learning and Teaching About Matrimony and Holy Orders

- .CCH-p.359-367
- .Sacrament celebrates blessed union of man/woman
- .Covenant with God
- .Minister of Sacrament is couple
- .Most important action is vows
- .Two become one with each other and God
- .Married couple serves Church because love is sign of God's love for Church
- .Ordained serve Church by representing Christ in community
- .Lead Church in prayer, teach faith, nourish spiritually
- .Minister of Sacrament is bishop
- .Visible symbol-laying on of hands
- .Bishop-Priest-Deacon

-How Do You Serve?

- .parish bulletin

-Optional Session Extension

- .Surprises for Those Who Serve
 - .envelopes, stickers
 - .list of seminarians
 - .homemade cookies
 - .Postal Service Priority Mail cartons
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.355
- ."Mirror Meditations"
- .Handout 1B

-Media

- .*Fishers of Men*

Session 6: Prayer: Tuning In To God

Objectives

- .Recognize that friendship and relationships are strengthened by taking the time to communicate with one another
- .Understand that God is always seeking to communicate with us and that prayer helps us to tune in to God

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapters 40-41
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 2566-2597 (God calls in prayer), 2623-2625 (role of Spirit in prayer), 2754-2757 (obstacles to prayer)

-Scripture

- .Genesis 12:1-5; Exodus 3:1-6; 1 Samuel 3:1-10; 1 Kings 3:5-14; Jeremiah 1:4-9; Luke 1:26-38; Mark 1:14-20; Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 19:1-10; Acts of the Apostles 9:3-6

-Supplies

- .cell phone
- .set of headphones
- .bulletins from parish / bulletins from surrounding parishes

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .cell phone
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Spirit Telecom

- .Communication
- .God's love is broadcasting during every moment of our lives-prayer helps us tune in
- .CCH-p.464, 467
- .Handout 6A
- .Holy Spirit keeps lines of communication open between us and God

-God Calling: Bible Exploration

- .CCH-p.463
- .Handout 6A

-God Calls, We Respond

-Optional Session Extension

- .The Church Prays in Many Ways
 - .parish bulletins / other parish bulletins
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.461
- ."Mirror Meditations
- .Psalm 139
- .Handout 1B

-Media

- .*Star Wars*

Session 7: The Lord's Prayer

-Objectives

- .Understand that the Lord's Prayer is a gift from Jesus that was first taught to the disciples
- .Recognize the seven petitions that make up the Lord's Prayer

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapters 42-43
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 2803-2854 (seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer)

-Scripture

- .Matthew 6:5-14

-Supplies

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .Prayer
- .Matthew 5:5-14
- .Overview

-The Perfect Number for the Perfect Prayer

- .CCH-p.490
- .Lord's Prayer guide/blueprint given to us by Jesus to show how to communicate with God

-The Lord's Prayer for Today's Young People
.CCH-p.492

-The Lord's Prayer in My Life
.CCH-p.482

-Optional Session Extension
.The Lord's Prayer in Spanish
.Handout 7A
.bulletins
.CCH-p.495
.Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer
.CCH-p.491
."Mirror Meditations"
.Handout 7A
.Handout 1B

-Media
.GIA Music, producer of the Catholic hymnal *Gather*

Session 8: The Ultimate Question: Why Am I Here?

-Objectives

- .Understand that they were created in the image of God for a purpose even if they are not sure what it is yet
- .Recognize that God can help them discover the purpose for their lives

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 27
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 1710-1715 (created in God's image)

-Scripture

- .Genesis 1:26-31 (creation of man and woman)

-Supplies

- .bookmark-sized strips of cardstock
- .lined paper
- .mailing envelopes

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Growing Up Can Be Confusing

- .CCH-p.312
- .St. Augustine, a Doctor of the Church

-What Do I Want to Be When I Grow Up?

- .Genesis 1:26-31
- .God created us; we didn't just happen by accident
- .God gifted us with God-like talents and characteristics
- .If we need God to help us find our purpose/vocation in life, we must keep lines of communication open between ourselves and God
- .The Church's sacraments and prayer can help us grow in our understanding of what God wants for us

-Insight from Saint Augustine

- .CCH-p.313
- .bookmark supplies
- .Handout 1B

-Optional Session Extension

- .A Letter to My Future Self
 - .paper/mailling envelopes
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- ."Mirror Meditations"

-Media

- .*Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium*

Session 9: God, Where Are You?

-Objectives

- .Understand that God promises to be with us always
- .Reflect on their relationship with God

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 28
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 164-165 (faith in times of suffering)

-Scripture

.Luke 11:9-10, Matthew 11:28, John 6:37, Isaiah 49:15

-Supplies

.light colored construction paper
.recent local newspapers

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

."Mirror Meditation"
.Prayer
.Overview

-Meeting Jesus in the Scriptures

.Luke 11:9-10
.When we were baptized, we became children of God the Father
and brothers and sisters of Jesus

-Meeting Jesus in Prayer

.Resource 9A
.Guided meditation

-Meeting Jesus in My Church Family

.construction paper

-Optional Session Extension

.Jesus in My Life: A Course Review
.Jesus said we would be able to meet him in the sacraments,
prayer, and the Scriptures
.Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

."Mirror Meditations"
.Handout 1B

-Media

.*The Santa Clause*

Session 10: The Eucharist in Catholic Life

-Objectives

.Gain a renewed understanding of the centrality of the Seven Sacraments,
especially the Eucharist, in Catholic life

.Learn about two practices they can use alone or with their families to enhance their participation in the Eucharist

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 24-27
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 1324-1327 (The Eucharist-Source and Summit of Ecclesial Life)

-Scripture

-Supplies

- .1/2" round red and blue stickers
- .sm bottles for Holy Water
- .bowl of Holy Water

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

-Discovering Our Parish Values

- .red/blue round stickers
- .CCH-p.272

-The Worldwide Church

- .Eucharist is the source and summit of Church Life
- .Our handbook approved by U.S. bishops meaning it presents teachings consistent with a book written for the worldwide church called the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- .CCH-p.309
- .When we celebrate the Eucharist in our home parish, we are united with every parish around the world.

-Connecting the Eucharist to Home and Beyond

- .Holy Water
- .One way to participate more fully in the Eucharist is to take the experience beyond the church building
- .Scripture readings at Sunday Eucharist on 3 year cycle

-Closing Prayer

-Optional Session Extension A

-Optional Session Extension B

Sacraments and Prayer - Grade 7

Session 1: Sacraments: Celebrating Christ's Presence

Objectives:

- .Understand that visible objects and actions help us to recognize the invisible realities in our lives
- .Understand that the sacraments are visible encounters that help us to recognize the invisible reality of Christ's loving presence

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Standard #11 Demonstrate the importance of the Sacraments, with an emphasis on the Centrality of the Eucharist in the life of Catholics

Standard #13 Celebrate the presence of the Sacred in experiences of Sacramentals, symbols, and rituals

Session 2: The Eucharist

Objectives:

- .Recognize that the Eucharist has a connection to Passover and the Last Supper
- .Understand that the Eucharist is a celebration of Christ's presence now

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Standard #4 Acknowledge and affirm the diverse cultural expression of Catholicism and other faith traditions

Standard #11 Demonstrate the importance of the Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics

Standard #12 Use appropriate resources to plan and participate in liturgy and other prayer services

Standard #13 Celebrate the presence of the Sacred in experiences of Sacramentals, symbols, and rituals

Session 3: Baptism and Confirmation

Objectives:

- .Identify Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist as Sacraments of Initiation
- .Recognize that being baptized makes us members of the Church

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

Standard #2 Present a reasoned rationale for being Catholic

Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Standard #5 Examine the variety of Christian vocations as a way to respond to the Baptismal call to a life of service

Standard #11 Demonstrate the importance of the Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics

Standard #13 Celebrate the presence of the Sacred in experiences of Sacramentals, symbols, and rituals

Session 4: The Sacraments of Healing

Objectives:

.Understand that the Church offers healing and forgiveness to those in need

.Become familiar with the celebration of the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick in their parish so they will be comfortable asking for them when they, a friend, or a family member would benefit from them

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Standard #11 Demonstrate the importance of the Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics

Standard #13 Celebrate the presence of the Sacred in experiences of Sacramentals, symbols, and rituals

Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles in interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

Session 5: Matrimony and Holy Orders

Objectives:

.Understand the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders as Sacraments of Service

.Recognize that God calls them to consider how they can use their gifts to serve others

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Standard #5 Examine the variety of Christian vocations as ways to respond to the Baptismal call to a life of service

Standard #11 Demonstrate the importance of the Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics

Standard #13 Celebrate the presence of the Sacred in experiences of Sacramentals, symbols, and rituals

Standard #18 Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national, and global in response to the Gospel call)

Session 6: Prayer: Tuning In To God

Objectives:

.Recognize that friendships and relationships are strengthened by taking the time to communicate with one another

.Understand that God is always seeking to communicate with us and that prayer helps us to tune in to God

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

Standard #9 Use a variety of prayer forms to enrich and express personal and communal spirituality

Standard #13 Celebrate the presence of the Sacred in experiences of Sacramentals, symbols, and rituals

Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

Session 7: The Lord's Prayer

Objectives:

.Understand that the Lord's Prayer is a gift from Jesus that was first taught to the disciples

.Recognize the seven petitions that make up the Lord's Prayer

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

Standard #9 Use a variety of prayer forms to enrich and express personal and communal spirituality

Standard #13 Celebrate the presence of the Sacred in experiences of Sacramentals, symbols, and rituals

Session 8: The Ultimate Question: Why Am I Here?

Objectives:

.Understand that they were created in the image of God for a purpose, even if they are not sure what it is yet

.Recognize that God can help them discover the purpose of their lives

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

Standard #5 Examine a variety of Christian vocations as ways to respond to the Baptismal call to a life of service

Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God

Standard #17 Critique societal structures in light of Catholic social justice principles and apply those principles to social and personal situations

Standard #18 Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national, and global) in response to the Gospel call

Session 9: God, Where Are You?

Objectives:

- .Understand that God promises to be with us always
- .Reflect on their relationship with God

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God

Standard #9 Use a variety of prayer forms to enrich and express personal and communal spirituality

Session 10: The Eucharist in the Catholic Life

Objectives:

- .Gain a renewed understanding of the centrality of the Seven Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, in Catholic life
- .Learn about two practices they can use alone or with their families to enhance their participation in the Eucharist

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Standard #11 Demonstrate the importance of the Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics

Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

The Holy Spirit and the Church - 7th Grade

Session 1: The Holy Spirit

Objectives:

- .Explore the meaning of the Holy Spirit as the Breath of God
- .Understand that the Holy Spirit has always been present with the Father and the Son, and that together they are responsible for creation
- .Name concrete ways that they see the Holy Spirit present in the world

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

- .Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life*
- .Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Session 2: Grace and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Objectives:

- .Define God's grace and recognize the presence of God's grace in their lives
- .Understand that God's grace makes it possible for them to fulfill their job

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

- .Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life*
- .Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- .Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God*

Session 3: Pentecost and the Early Church

Objectives:

- .Understand that the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was a central event in the life of the early Church and in the spread of Christianity
- .Describe ways the Holy Spirit was at work in the early Church

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

- .Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life*
- .Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- .Standard #10 Illustrate a basic understanding of the history of the church*

Session 4: The Mission of the Church

Objectives:

- .Differentiate between the Church and other types of communities
- .Recognize that God calls everyone to be a part of the Church
- .Identify how various images help us to understand the mystery of the Church

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

.Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

.Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

Session 5: The Structure of the Church

Objectives:

.Understand how the various roles of the ordained, consecrated, and laity contribute to the life and mission of the Church

.Identify ways baptized believers share in Jesus Christ's mission to make Christ known in the world

.Express how baptized believers participate in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission of Christ today

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

.Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

.Standard #5 Examine the variety of Christian vocations as ways to respond to the Baptismal call to a life of service

.Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God

.Standard #11 Demonstrate the importance of the Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics

.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

Session 6: Ending Things: Heaven and Hell

Objectives:

.Understand that Heaven and hell are not actual places, as we generally understand the word place to mean a fixed location, but states of being where we either experience perfect union and happiness with God (Heaven) or total separation from God (Hell)

.Reflect on how loving or refusing to love others is a crucial test of whether we can be united with God for eternity

.Apply Jesus' teaching on what is required of us to live in the Reign of God, as outlined in Matthew 25:31-46, to situations in their lives

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

.Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

.Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

.Standard #15 Make moral decisions based on Catholic moral decision-making models

.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

Session 7: Saints and Mary

Objectives:

- .Examine how Mary and the saints embody what it means to be holy and how they are examples to us of what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ
- .Learn more about specific saints and people of faith
- .Recognize that prayer strengthens our communion with the saints

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

.Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

.Standard #9 Use a variety of prayer forms to enrich and express personal and communal spirituality

.Standard #10 Illustrate a basic understanding of the history of the Church

Session 8: Dealing with Peer Pressure

Objectives:

- .Define and understand the effects of social pressure
- .Identify both positive and negative experiences of peer pressure
- .Apply strategies for combating negative peer pressure to everyday experiences

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

.Standard #15 Make moral decisions based on Catholic moral decision-making models

.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

-Standard #17 Critique societal structures in light of Catholic social justice principles and apply those principles to social and personal situations

Session 9: Role Models: Whom Should I Look Up To?

Objectives:

- .Reflect on the qualities and values most important to them, and on the qualities and values of Christian disciples
- .Define a role model and identify various types of role models
- .Identify the characteristics of Christian role models

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

.Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God

.Standard #8 Use effective community-building skills in relating with others

.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

.Standard #17 Critique societal structures in light of Catholic social justice principles and apply those principles to social and personal situations

Session 10: The Holy Spirit and the Church Celebration

Objectives:

- .Review what they have learned during previous sessions with an option for parental involvement

.Celebrate the time they have spent together learning and growing in their faith and friendship

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

.Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation for faith community as the way to come to know God

Growing in Love – Grade 7

Lesson 1: In God's Image

Objectives:

- .Recognize that gender is part of being created in God' image.
- .Identify attraction between the sexes as part of God's plan for new life
- .Describe ways to overcome gender stereotypes and sex discrimination

Vocabulary:

- . gender: being created male or female
- . sexual orientation: a person's feelings or attraction toward persons of the same or other gender
- .heterosexual: sexually attracted to persons of the other gender
- .homosexual: sexually attracted to persons of one's own gender
- .bisexual: sexually attracted to persons of one's own gender as well as those of the other gender

Lesson 2: Real Love

Objectives:

- .Recognize that God, who is the communion of love we call the Trinity, calls us to loving communion with the Trinity and with others
- .Identify and describe the characteristics of authentic love
- .Describe ways to avoid inappropriate expressions of affection and inauthentic relationships
- .Give thanks for God's gift of real love

Vocabulary:

- .Holy Trinity: the loving God of three equal persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- .affection: the love we have for family members and friends
- .charity: the virtue of sharing love unselfishly with others, especially those most in need
- .infatuation: initial attraction to someone or something, not yet reaching a level of authentic love

Lesson 3: Fully Human

Objectives:

- .Recognize that Jesus truly God and truly human, shows us the way to be most authentically human
- .Identify the virtues of chastity, modesty, purity, and charity
- .Describe the ways to practice chastity and related virtues
- .Give thanks for the example and continuing love of Jesus

Vocabulary:

- .incarnation: God becoming human in Jesus
- .purity: the virtue of expressing oneself through what is good and true
- .chastity: the virtue that helps a person express sexuality appropriately according to his or her vocation
- .obscene: that which cheapens or mocks God's gift of sexuality

Lesson 4: The Teaching Church

Objectives:

- .Describe the sources of support that Church provides for us in growing in love
- .Identify ways in which participation in the Catholic community helps us share love with others
- .Recognize that all Christians are responsible to one another as members of Christ's body
- .Practice working for the common good

Vocabulary:

- .magisterium: the teaching authority of the Church, given by Christ through the Holy Spirit and found in the bishops in union with the pope
- .common good: that which helps people in a community become the best they can be

Lesson 5: Growing in Grace

Objectives:

- .Recognize that grace, loving relationship with God, enables us to make good choices, even though our human nature is subject to temptation and sin
- .Identify the sexual drive as a source of both great blessing and great challenge
- .Describe the importance of prayer, practicing the virtues, and participating in the sacraments in helping us live our Christian morality
- .Celebrate God's loving presence in our lives

Vocabulary:

- .temperance: the virtue that helps us achieve balance in our choices and actions

Lesson 6: Giving Life

Objectives:

- .Recognize that all relationships offer the opportunity to nurture and protect God's gift of human life
- .Identify the sacraments as a source of strength as we grow in love and forgiveness
- .Describe ways to be faithful and life-giving in marriage and family life
- .Celebrate God's gift of human life

Vocabulary:

- .Natural Family Planning: using a woman's fertility cycle to plan for the birth of a child or spacing between a couple's children
- .infertility: difficulty or impossibility in conceiving or carrying a baby to birth
- .reproductive technologies: scientific and medical processes to overcome infertility

Lesson 7: Lifelong Love

Objectives:

- .Recognize that growing in love is a lifelong process, assisted by the Holy Spirit
- .Bibles
- .Identify characteristics of Christian maturity
- .Cite and describe examples of responsible love in salvation history
- .Celebrate the great love story of salvation

Vocabulary:

- .maturity: acting responsibly according to one's age and state of life
- .salvation history: the story of God's loving action in human history, saving us from the power of sin and everlasting death