

Religion Program

All third through sixth graders use the Sadlier Religion series entitled, *We Believe*, which is sanctioned by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as the teachings of the Catholic faith in the series are in line with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The series covers the four pillars of the Catechism, which are Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral Life and Prayer. A website is recommended for sharing the faith at home and school at www.WeBelieveweb.com.

Seventh and eighth grades use the Loyola Religion series entitled, *Christ Our Life*, which is sanctioned by the USCCB also and is aligned with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. A website is recommend for sharing the faith at home and school at www.LoyolaPress.org.

❖ **Third Graders** learn about God’s vast love for them through the following topics:

1. The Church
 - a. The Savior
 - b. The Resurrection
 - c. The Return of Jesus
 - d. The Early Church
 - e. The Liturgical Year
2. We are the Body of Christ
 - a. 4 Pillars of the Church
 - b. Our Faith – Creed
 - c. Prayer
 - d. Church Parishes
 - e. Vocations
3. Worship
 - a. Sacraments
 - b. The Mass
 - c. Forgiveness
 - d. Care for the Sick
 - e. Lent & the Triduum
4. Disciples
 - a. Called to Serve
 - b. Christian Unity
 - c. Universal Church
 - d. Communion of Saints
 - e. Jesus’ Teachings

❖ **Fourth Graders** focus on our faith journey with Christ through the following topics:

1. Growing in Faith
 - a. Son of God & Disciples
 - b. Jesus’ Teachings
 - c. Sin & Free Will
 - d. Our Conscience
 - e. Forgiveness
 - f. The Liturgical Year
2. Commandments
 - a. God’s Law
 - b. First Commandment
 - c. Second Commandment
 - d. Third Commandment
 - e. Introductory Rite at Mass
3. Commandments Help Us Love
 - a. Fourth Commandment
 - b. Fifth Commandment
 - c. Sixth Commandment
 - d. Seventh Commandment
 - e. Eighth Commandment
4. Called to Holiness
 - a. Ninth Commandment
 - b. Tenth Commandment
 - c. Jesus as our Model
 - d. Practicing Catholics
 - e. Called to be Disciples

❖ **Fifth Graders** delve deeper into the meaning and God’s grace available through the 7 sacraments: Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation, Sacrament of the Sick, Marriage, and Holy Orders.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God Gave us Jesus <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus as Son of God b. Jesus Shares His Mission c. 7 Sacraments Overview d. Baptism 2. Sacraments of Initiation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Confirmation b. First Eucharist c. Importance of Prayer d. Sacraments as Prayer | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Sacraments of Healing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reconciliation b. Jesus Heals c. Anointing of the Sick d. Honor Mary 4. Love and Serve <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Faith, Hope & Love b. Live as Disciples c. Matrimony d. Holy Orders e. One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic |
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Sixth Graders center on the Old Testament and learn about the famous prophets who foretold the Messiah’s coming, as well as, the covenants of God with man prior to the Son’s coming. The topics of instruction include the following:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Holy Covenant <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God Makes Himself Known b. Book of Genesis c. Creation of Humans d. Promise of a Savior e. Ancestors of Faith 2. Building a Covenant Nation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God’s People as Slaves b. God Led His People to Freedom c. The People in Canaan d. The Kings e. Solomon’s Reign | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Shaping the Covenant People <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Israel: Northern Kingdom b. Judah: Southern Kingdom c. The Exile d. A People Strong in Faith e. Make Way for the Savior 4. The Covenant Fulfilled <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus, Teacher & Healer b. Jesus, Redeemer & Savior c. The Early Church d. The Bible & Today’s Church e. Universal Church |
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Seventh graders study the New Testament and Christ’s life on earth. The four gospels are utilized to study the birth, life and death of the Savior of the World.

Topic covered include the following: Truly God and truly man; God in three persons; Incarnation; Paschal Mystery; faith; Scripture/Word of God; Tradition; Greatest Commandment; Gospel; Inspiration: New Testament; Word became Flesh; Infancy Narratives; Immaculate Conception; the Virgin Birth; the Assumption; Abundant Life; Prophet, Priest & King; Jesus’ Mission; Jesus’ Baptism; Temptation; Apostles; Disciples: Witness: Mary as Disciple: Take Up your Cross; RCIA; Sacraments of Initiation; Parables; Miracles; Faith the size of a Mustard Seed; Sacraments of Healing; Four Elements of Reconciliation; Viaticum; Ways we can heal; Sermon on the Mount; Life as a Gift; Two Great Commandments; Catholic Social Teaching; Chastity; Grace;

Theological Virtues; Cardinal Virtues; Death; Promise of Eternal Life; Transfiguration; 2 Main Parts of the Eucharistic Celebration; Transubstantiation; the Supreme Act of Love; Resurrection; Ascension; Pentecost; Church as Community; Fruits of the Holy Spirit; Call to Holiness; Vocations; Religious Vows; Marriage as a Sign; Mission of Bishops, Priest and Deacons

1. Jesus Christ the Way:
 - a. Jesus the Son of God
 - b. Jesus the Son of Man
 - c. Jesus the Messiah
 - d. Jesus the Nazarene
 - e. Jesus the Son of Mary & Joseph
 - f. Jesus the Christ
 - g. Jesus the Master
 - h. Jesus the Savior
2. Jesus Christ the Truth
 - a. Jesus the Storyteller
 - b. Jesus the Miracle Worker
 - c. Jesus the Healer
 - d. Jesus the Teacher
 - e. Jesus the Light of the World
 - f. Jesus the King
 - g. Jesus the Sacred Heart
3. Jesus Christ the Life
 - a. Jesus the Prophet
 - b. Jesus the Suffering Servant
 - c. Jesus the Bread of Life
 - d. Jesus the Lamb of God
 - e. Jesus the Risen Lord
 - f. Jesus the Head of the Church
 - g. Jesus Emmanuel
4. Special Seasons & Lessons
 - a. Feast of All Saints
 - b. Advent
 - c. Christmas
 - d. Lent
 - e. Holy Week
 - f. Easter
 - g. Pentecost
 - h. Things Catholics Should

Know

Eighth graders study Church History to better understand the world before and after Christ. By centering the scriptures in their time period, students can make a better connection with the struggles, miracles and triumphs of the people of God.

Topics covered include the following: Church as Community; Images of the Church; Mother of the Church; Holy Spirit and the Church; Salvation History; God's Revelation; Communion of Saints; Death & Resurrection as Beginning; Six Models that Describe the Church; Prayer; Two Basic Forms of Prayer; Liturgy of the Hours; the Lord's Prayer; Our Call; Corporal Works of Mercy; Beatitudes; Marks of the Church; Visible Signs of Unity; Last Supper; Reasons the Church is Holy; Sacraments as Growth to Holiness; Gifts of the Spirit; Catholic; Evangelization; Apostolic; Acts of the Apostles; Experiences of the Early Church; Stephen the First Martyr; Universal; Council of Jerusalem; Paul's Contributions; Martyrs; Monastic Life; Council of Nicea; Roman Empire; Monks as Missionaries; Conquering Christians; Church Leaders as Political Leaders; Great Schism; Challenges of the Church; Holy Spirit as a Guide; Council of Trent; Jesuit Missionaries; St. Vincent de Paul & Saint Julie Billiart; Syllabus of Errors; Church Response to the Industrial Revolution; Second Vatican Council; Early North American Missionaries; Bishop John Carroll; Patroness of the U.S.; Virtues; Four Types of Prayer; Commandment Review; Liturgical Calendar

1. The Mystery of the Church
 - a. People of God
 - b. Our Beginnings
 - c. The Early Church
 - d. A Prayerful People
 - e. A People of Service
2. The Marks of the Church
 - a. Unity in the Spirit
 - b. Holiness
 - c. Universal
 - d. Mission of the Apostles
3. History: Part I
 - a. First Years
 - b. Growth
 - c. Strong People of Faith
 - d. Conquering Christians
 - e. Ups and Downs of Church
4. History: Part II
 - a. Church Challenges
 - b. Church Reform
 - c. Church in Changing Times
 - d. Signs of the Times
 - e. The U. S. Church
5. The Witness of the Church
 - a. A Way of Love
 - b. A Way of Faith
 - c. A Way of Worship
 - d. A Way of Family
 - e. A Way of Dignity
 - f. A Way of Justice & Truth
6. Special Seasons & Lessons
 - a. Feast of All Saints
 - b. Advent
 - c. Epiphany
 - d. Lent
 - e. Holy Week
 - f. Easter
 - g. Pentecost
 - h. Reconciliation
 - i. Celebrating Eucharist

Third through eighth graders receive AIDS education once a year using a program approved by the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA). The *Circle of Care Program* created by the Diocesan Office of Youth and Child Protection is taught for a week to all third through eighth graders to aid them in learning about child abuse and ways to report it. Fifth through eighth graders also study human sexuality in an age appropriate, Catholic program entitled "Growing in Love."

School-wide Religious Climate:

St. Theresa Middle School is centered in Christ by fostering the Catholic formation of its students, faculty and staff, administration and parents. Many religious symbols are evident throughout the school, such as pictures of Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Robert Muench, D.D.S., St. Theresa of Avila and St. Paul; statues of St. Theresa of Avila, Mary, St. Joseph and St. Anthony of Padua; crosses in the classrooms, gym, cafeteria and office; meditation gardens; statues of Mary in classrooms; holy water fountains in classrooms, etc.

Opportunities for Worship and Service:

School opens each day with community prayer in the gym with the whole student body. Scripture is incorporated in morning prayer daily along with Prayers of the Faithful. Each class

throughout the day begins with a prayer, and a closing prayer is said at the end of the day. Students participate in Mass at least once a month along with Holy Days of Obligation, Special Feast Days and Class Masses. Students participate in para-liturgies as well, such as at Thanksgiving and Advent. Faculty and students participate in prayer partner programs to support one another in our faith journey.

Students participate in many service projects through class projects, school wide projects and God's Warriors, a sixth through eighth grade religion based organization. Past projects include Quarters for Nursing Home Residents, Hats On for Cancer Research, pop tab collection for Ronald McDonald Houses, "Souper Bowl" for the poor, Thanksgiving food drive, Mission collections to name a few.