

St. Joseph Children's Faith Formation Benchmarks

Overview

First Grade

- The Lord's Prayer
- The Hail Mary

Second Grade

- Parts of the Mass
- The Act of Contrition

Third Grade

- The Seven Sacraments
- The Twelve Apostles

Fourth Grade

- The Ten Commandments
- The Saints

Fifth Grade

- The Apostles Creed
- Christian Service

Sixth Grade

- The Bible and specifically the four Gospels
- Mary and the Rosary
- Vocations

Seventh Grade

- Catholic Identity
- The *Stations of the Cross*
- Stewardship

Eighth Grade *Exit Objectives*

Knowledge and Understanding of the following:

- All previous grade level benchmarks
- Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teachings

St. Joseph Children's Faith Formation Benchmarks

First Grade

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you!
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit
Of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen

St. Joseph Children's Faith Formation Benchmarks

Second Grade

Parts of the Mass

(See "*First Eucharist*" booklet)

Introductory Rites
Liturgy of the Word
Liturgy of the Eucharist
Concluding Rites

Act of Contrition

My God,
I am sorry for my sins
With all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
And failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
Whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
To do penance, to sin no more,
And to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
Suffered and died for us,
In His name, my God, have mercy.

St. Joseph Children's Faith Formation Benchmarks

Third Grade

Know and Understand the Seven Sacraments

Baptism
Confirmation
Eucharist
Reconciliation (Penance)
Anointing of the Sick
Holy Orders
Matrimony

Name the Twelve Apostles

Simon Peter
Andrew
James
John
Philip
Bartholomew
Thomas
Matthew
James, son of Alphaeus
Thaddaeus
Simon, the Cananaean
Judas Iscariot

St. Joseph Children's Faith Formation Benchmarks

Fourth Grade

Recite the Ten Commandments

(These are found in the second book of the Old Testament, Exodus 20: 1-17)

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day
4. Honor your father and your mother
5. You shall not kill
6. You shall not commit adultery
7. You shall not steal
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

Knowledge of Saints

- State the definition of a patron saint and feast days.
- Knowledge of the steps to canonization
- Be able to name four saints and state some background facts on them (i.e.: feast day, what they are a patron of and why, birthday)

St. Joseph Children's Faith Formation Benchmarks

Fifth Grade

Knowledge of the Apostles' Creed

(Statement of our faith. We need to know it, be able to say it & live it)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord,
who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand

of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

*(Students will be expected to recite this
And understand what it means)*

Christian Service

- Definition of Christian service:
 - Bring Christ to others.
 - **Always** put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first, not just in times of disaster and peace.
 - **Always** doing so with compassion and respect.
- **Corporal Works of Mercy:**
 - Feed the hungry ○ Give drink to the thirsty ○ Clothe the naked ○ Shelter the homeless ○ Care for the sick ○ Help the imprisoned ○ Bury the Dead
 - Be able to list some practical applications.

St. Joseph Children's Faith Formation Benchmarks

Sixth Grade

Knowledge of the Bible and Gospels

(the bible is like a Library made up of many different books)

- Old Testament: written of life **before Jesus** time and prophesizes His coming
- New Testament: written after Jesus' death. It contains writings **about Jesus'** life and teachings
- State basic knowledge of the books and authors in both testaments
 - The Holy Spirit inspired the human writers of the Bible to accurately communicate God's word to his people.
 - The individual books each have a name (i.e.: Genesis, Exodus, Acts, Romans) and both testaments are divided into specific categories (OT = Pentateuch, Wisdom, Historical, Prophets, NT= Gospels, Letters)
 - The Bible is like a Library made up of many different books.
- State the Four Gospels and give definition of the word "Gospel"
- Be able to look up a verse in the Bible.

Mary and the Rosary

- State who Mary is and why she is important to us.
- Define the Rosary and the prayers that are used while praying it.
 - Catholics pray the Rosary to honor Mary and to remember the important events in life of Jesus and Mary.
 - We believe that the rosary was a powerful gift from Mary to honor her son.
- Be familiar with the Mysteries
 - List their order and what they represent.

Vocations

- State the definition of a vocation
 - The "call" to follow Jesus and serve God through one of four paths in life.
- List the different types of vocations
 - Single Life ○ Married Life ○ Consecrated Life ○ Holy Orders (ordination to the diaconate or priesthood)

St. Joseph Children's Faith Formation Benchmarks

Seventh Grade

Catholic Identity-What Makes us Catholic?

(Be able to list a couple of ideas from each section)

State five of our beliefs:

- The Trinity – three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one.
- Jesus was human, lived, died, and was resurrected and has always been divine
- We are One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic
- Communion of Saints after death
- True presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

State five traditions that are especially important to us:

- Eucharist is at the center of the Catholic Liturgy and our faith
- Seven Sacraments
- Celebrate Liturgical Seasons
- Intercessory prayers of Mary and the Saints
- Devotional prayers (Adoration, Rosary, Stations of the Cross)

State seven practices:

- Obey the Ten Commandments and live the Beatitudes
- Celebrate Forgiveness through Reconciliation
- Hospitality ○ All are welcome
- Stewardship ○ Giving of time, talent, and treasure
- Being an active participant at mass and volunteering in your church community

Be Familiar with the Stations of the Cross

(When we pray the Stations of the Cross we walk from station to station reflecting upon the final places on earth that Jesus walked on his way to Calvary)

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|--|---|
| 1. Jesus is condemned to death. | 9. Jesus falls the third time |
| 2. Jesus takes up his cross. | 10. Jesus is stripped of his garments. |
| 3. Jesus falls the first time. | 11. Jesus is nailed to the cross. |
| 4. Jesus meets his mother. | 12. Jesus dies on the cross. |
| 5. Simon helps Jesus carry the cross. | 13. Jesus is taken down from the cross. |
| 6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. | 14. Jesus is laid in the tomb. |
| 7. Jesus falls the second time. | |
| 8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem. | |

Understand the Definition of Stewardship

Understanding that we do not *own* the gifts that God has given us, but are trustees of the gifts.

- We have an obligation to share:
 - our time
 - our talents
 - our material treasures
- Tell how a teen might demonstrate a true attitude of stewardship in each of these areas

St. Joseph Children's Faith Formation Benchmarks

Eighth Grade * Exit Objectives

Knowledge and Understanding of the previous grade level benchmarks

State Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Knowledge
Wisdom
Understanding
Counsel (Right Judgment)
Fortitude (Courage)
Piety (Reverence)
Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)

State Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Charity (Love)
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Goodness
Generosity
Gentleness
Faithfulness
Modesty
Self-Control
Chastity

State Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of Human Person
Call to Family, Community and Participation
Rights and Responsibilities
Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
Dignity and Rights of Workers
Solidarity
Care for God's Creation