



Sermon on the Mount by Bloch

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# Curriculum Overview

## *The Purpose of our Lives*

### **God created us for a relationship with Himself**

**“God, infinitely perfect and blessed in Himself, in a plan of sheer goodness, freely created us to make us share in His own blessed life” (CCC #1).**

Because of this, the Catechism defines man as “capax Dei” (as having a “capacity for God”). This means that we were created with a desire for God, which is written on the human heart. (CCC #27)

St. Augustine describes beautifully the longing of a heart that is empty without God: “Our heart is restless until it rests in You” (CCC #30).

**Only in God will we find the truth and happiness we never stop searching for.**

Nothing of this world can fully satisfy the desire for happiness that is in every human heart. Our deepest desire is to know and love God.

*“Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice” (Psalm 105:3).*

However, we are tempted to ignore, try to fill or even crush the experience of this longing (our intimate and vital need for God) in our hearts. (CCC #29).

### **God comes to meet us.**

**We cannot fulfill our purpose in life without God coming to meet us.**

For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to us. (CCC #1)

Although we can ignore, forget or even reject God, He never ceases to call us to seek Him. God’s call comes to our hearts and through experiences of our lives. (CCC #32-33)

**Even more than we desire to seek God, God desires to seek us. (CCC #2560)**

**God reveals Himself to us so that we can know Him and love Him.**

Through reason, we can know that God exists. However, we cannot know God personally nor the purpose of our lives without His Divine Revelation. (CCC #52-53)

The more we learn about God (how much He loves us, the promises that He has made and kept, and what He suffered for us) the more we will love Him.

**God’s Revelation is accompanied by Grace (CCC #153)**

Divine grace, which is God’s help, is given with the delivery of His Revelation.

We need the grace of God and the assistance of the Holy Spirit, who moves our heart and converts it to God, making it easy to accept and believe the truth.

### **We must respond to God in Faith**

What is faith? Faith is first of all a personal act of total surrender of oneself to God.

God invites us to respond to His loving address. Faith is our response. We entrust ourselves to God as a response to His Love, to His self-giving.

In addition and inseparably, faith is the acceptance by the mind of what God reveals (i.e. the content of Faith). Our response to God is always a gift of God. This faith is the basis of our relationship with Him. Faith means believing without a shadow of a doubt in everything which God tells us is true because God can neither deceive nor be deceived. (CCC #150,156) To make an act of faith in God’s Revelation, we 1) listen, 2) consider 3) assent 4) obey. (CCC #154-155)

*“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go” (Heb. 11:8).*

## ***Each Person is Created in God's Image***

**God is a Trinity of Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God's very being is Life, Truth, and Love. (CCC #212-217, 231)**

“There is only one God, the almighty Father, His only Son, and the Holy Spirit: the Most Holy Trinity” (CCC #233). God has revealed this to us. (Luke 3:21-22; Acts 2:1-33)

God is a communion of Persons: From all eternity the Father pours Himself out completely to His Son. From all eternity the Son returns that love to the Father. The love between the Father and the Son is a Divine Person, the Holy Spirit. The three, infinite Persons live a perfect communion of self-giving love (CCC 737, 259, 733, 1108).

In the coming of the Son to save us, and the Holy Spirit to sanctify us (to make us holy), “God has revealed His innermost secret: God Himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and He has destined us to share in that perfect exchange” of love (CCC #221).

*“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love”* (1 John 4:7-8).

### **God's Plan Revealed**

Being created in the image of God means that God has created us for Himself, to be in relationship with Him. He has created us with an immortal soul with intellect, will and memory. We are created in the image of God as a communion of persons. *“God created man in His image; in the divine image He created him; male and female He created them”* (Genesis 1:27). (CCC 357-358,372)

God created man and woman out of love and called them to share, by knowledge and love, in His own life. We are called to a personal relationship with God. With the help of grace, we must offer God a response of faith and love (CCC #356-357).

*“If a man loves me,”* says the Lord, *“he will keep My word, and my Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make our home with him”* (John 14:23).

### **The Dignity of the Human Person**

Our dignity rests on the fact that we are created in the image and likeness of God. We have the capacity to give and receive love, to enter into a communion with other persons, and most especially with God. (CCC #357)

Each person has intrinsic dignity, (a quality that is inherent) and this dignity must be acknowledged. Dignity cannot be assigned based on a situation, such as quality of life, otherwise the result will be that some people will have more dignity than others. (Ex: persons with Down's syndrome will be judged as having less dignity than other people.)

Each person is a gift and is called upon to be a steward of the gift of life that they have received. We do this by discovering and living according to the true purpose of our existence: being in relationship with God and glorifying Him. We are stewards of our minds and hearts by seeking the truth and loving what is good. We take care of our bodies through personal hygiene, proper diet, exercise etc. We are to treat others with respect by showing kindness, sharing the truth, promoting human dignity and working for justice and peace among all.

## **Each Person has a Vocation and a Mission**

### **In Baptism, we receive our primary vocation: to love God and neighbor**

God is holy. God is a communion of Persons of total, perfect, self-giving love.

The inner life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a dialogue of love, truth and life.

Holiness is the perfection of charity (love) (CCC 2013). We are called to love God and others as Christ loved us, giving His life for us on the Cross.

*“Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).*

The Sacrament of Baptism is the true entry into the holiness of God by receiving the indwelling Holy Spirit into our soul. Our sins are truly forgiven, and we become an entirely new creature, united with the Blessed Trinity, becoming a member of the Body of Christ, the Catholic Church. *“So, whoever is in Christ is a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

A relationship with Jesus is developed through talking and listening with Him. We are called to sit at the feet of Jesus as He unveils His Heart to us and we to Him (See Luke 10: 38-42). Prayer deepens that conversation with Christ, which makes us His intimate friends.

### **Christ calls each person to follow Him as a married person, a dedicated single person, a consecrated person or an ordained priest. These are the personal vocations by which we respond to live the primary vocation to love God.**

From the moment of Baptism, God has a special plan for each person.

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you” (Jeremiah 1:5).*

Our vocation is not mainly what we choose to do but what we have been chosen for. God has given each person distinct gifts. We seek to discover the adventure of life for which God has planned for us. Through our vocation, we use these gifts to serve the Church and the world.

Our personal vocation of serving others emerges from the deepest desires of our heart through conversations with people we trust and through the circumstances of life. Prayer provides the opportunity to recognize that these desires actually originate from God. He reveals the manner of serving others that will bring our greatest personal joy and fulfillment.

### **Success in our mission to serve others will flow from holiness of life**

On a day to day basis, God wants us to bring about His Kingdom on earth by conducting ourselves in a holy way through loving and serving others. In extending our friendship with Christ to those who have not yet heard His call, we help others to recognize their purpose in life. Our apostolic activity will be the fruit of quiet prayer spent with Jesus, learning how to recognize and distinguish the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

*“Abide in Me and I in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me” (John 15:4).*

How do I know what our daily mission will be? (see the example of Peter in Acts 3:1-9)

Attend In daily life, await the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Discern Ask God: What are You going to do in these circumstances?

Interpret Ask: What do You want me to do? What is my role in these circumstances?

Respond If I act in accordance with God’s will, His good work is accomplished.

### **The ultimate goal of our vocation is beatitude with God in Heaven.**

**“It was not you who chose Me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain. . . This I command you: love one another” (John 15:16, 17).**

# ***Due to our fallen human condition, sin prevents us from fulfilling our purpose in life. We need God's grace to respond to His call.***

### **God gives us a share in His own Life. We call this gift grace.**

Grace is a free gift from the love of God. God gives us grace to respond to His call to become children of God, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life. (CCC 1996)

We do not earn or deserve God's grace.

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Sanctifying grace is a participation in the life of God and is received in all the Sacraments. At Baptism, sanctifying grace first enters the soul through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Sanctifying grace confers a supernatural disposition that enables the recipients of the sacraments to act and live like children of God. It purifies (sanctifies) and perfects the soul to conform to God's will and plan (CCC 2000). This grace can be lost through mortal (serious) sin. Sanctifying grace can be restored through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Actual grace is a gift from God given when we need it or when we seek His help. We receive actual grace that we might believe in God and respond to Him. Actual grace is not a state of the soul but a specific intervention from God that enlightens our intellect, strengthens our will, and prompts us to do a good or avoid an evil.

### **We need God's Grace. (CCC 397- 405)**

God created us to live in communion with Him. Before the Fall, Adam and Eve lived this communion. This communion with God was lost by Adam's sin. This loss of union with God has weakened our human nature. We are: subject to ignorance, suffering, death, and concupiscence (inclined to sin). Our intellects are darkened, our wills are weakened and our passions are disordered.

Jesus came to restore God's grace to us and raise us to the dignity of the adopted children of God. We receive sanctifying grace by the merits of His Paschal Mystery, which includes Jesus' Suffering, Death, Resurrection and Ascension. (CCC 1067)

Baptism gives us a birth into Christ (by imparting a share in Christ's divine life), removes original sin and any personal sin, and makes us members of the Church, the Body of Christ (CCC 1215, 1265). However, our human nature remains weakened and inclined toward sin (concupiscence). There exists a conflicted tendency in the human spirit to separate ourselves from God and to fail in the "perfection of charity" (CCC 405).

### **We want to cooperate with God's Grace.**

Grace is always God's initiative, calling us to respond to His love. We should pray to be more aware of our need for God's grace and strive to remove all obstacles to His grace. Through grace we are awakened to God's loving address, we are sanctified (made holy) and our human nature is transformed (healed and elevated) by being welcomed into the very life of God. In cooperating with God's grace, we merit more grace.

The Holy Spirit prompts us to cooperate with God's grace by doing God's will in our everyday lives. Our cooperation with grace leads us to an ever more intimate union with Jesus Christ (CCC 2014). *"God saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to... the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus"* (2 Timothy 1:9).

# ***Grace transforms us to give ourselves to Christ and He works through us. Our life in Christ will be marked by virtue.***

**Within our hearts is a desire for happiness that God intends to fulfill in a way that goes beyond worldly expectations.**

True happiness (“Beatitude” – the vision of God) comes from the “imitation of Christ,” by living a Christ-like life. When our actions flow from the union with Jesus Christ present in our hearts, we will know true happiness. This means living the Beatitudes, which are at the heart of Jesus’ preaching and best portray His life.

Living the Beatitudes brings us a happiness that nothing in the world can give; it brings us God’s own happiness (CCC 1722). “The Beatitudes reveal the purpose of our lives, the ultimate end of human acts: God calls us to His own beatitude.”(CCC 1719).

“The beatitude we are promised confronts us with decisive moral choices. It invites us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek the love of God above all else. It teaches us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement - however beneficial it may be - such as science, technology, and art, or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love” (CCC 1723).

**The Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts makes it possible to conform ourselves to Christ.**

**In the Sacrament of Baptism, the Gift of God, the Holy Spirit, comes to live in our hearts. His grace:**

- Enables us to believe in God, to hope in Him, and to love Him through the Theological Virtues. (faith – unlimited trust/entrustment, hope – confidence in God/His promises, charity – self-donation/sacrifice - CCC1812-1822)
- Gives us the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (wisdom, fortitude, knowledge, fear of the Lord, understanding, right counsel and piety – (Isaiah 11:1-3, CCC 1830)
- Allows us to grow in goodness through the moral virtues. (prudence-right judgment, fortitude-courage, justice-giving God and neighbor what is due, temperance- moderating the attraction of pleasures CCC 1265-1266)

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit comes to:

- Root us more deeply in the divine filiation, as sons and daughters of our Father
- Unite us more firmly to Christ
- Increase the gifts in us in order to be a disciple of Jesus Christ
- Render our bond with the Church more perfect
- Give us a special strength to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross (CCC 1303).

*“The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:15).*

“. . .The effect of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost” (CCC 1302).

The Holy Eucharist is the Sacrament of Communion as we receive Jesus Himself. Our friendship with Christ can be weakened or even destroyed by mortal sin. The Sacrament of Reconciliation restores our relationship and strengthens us to live in imitation of Christ.

# Scope of the Curriculum

## Based upon Guidelines for Doctrinally Sound Catechetical Materials United States Catholic Conference

**Note:** The following subject areas will show a gradual development from pre-k through eighth grade. Furthermore, the foundation of the teaching is given to understand properly the overall purpose of this teaching in Catholic faith and life.

### God – Trinity

**Foundation:** *“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in Himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and the means by which the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals Himself to us ‘and reconciles and unites with Himself those who turn away from sin’” (CCC 234).*

**Pre-k and K.** There is only one God and there are three Persons in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We call the three Persons in one God “the Blessed Trinity.”

- 1<sup>st</sup> There is only one God and there are three Persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God has no beginning and no end.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The three Persons in one God is the Blessed Trinity. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit made everything out of nothing. God is all-powerful: He can do everything; He knows everything; He is all-good; and He looks after us wherever we are.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> There are three Persons in the one true God. Each of the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity gives Himself totally to the others because they perfectly love each other. God is love.
- 4<sup>th</sup> God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed to live with Him forever. But they disobeyed God, which was the Original Sin. God still loved them and promised that He would send a Savior to reunite us with God. God showed His love to His people by entering into mutual promises (covenants) with them. A covenant is a sacred family bond. In the covenants, God has told us: I will be your God and you will be My people.”
- 5<sup>th</sup> God the Father sent His Son to reveal the Truth about God and about ourselves (Revelation). Jesus revealed the greatest truth about God: that there are three Persons in one God. The three Persons in one God is a communion of Persons. The Blessed Trinity is a mystery of Faith. A mystery of Faith is a truth revealed by God that we are unable to understand fully because of the limits of our minds and the greatness of God. Nevertheless, a mystery of faith is reasonable.
- 6<sup>th</sup> There is only one God, and He created all that exists as a way of sharing His love with us. God is Creator and Lord of all things and so deserves our worship and adoration.
- 7<sup>th</sup> God shows His merciful love by drawing good out of evil.
- 8<sup>th</sup> “God is love and in Himself He lives a mystery of personal loving communion. The life that God lives in Himself is personal (Father, Son and Holy Spirit); it is loving (each of the Persons loves the other two); and it is a communion (the three Persons are united in Their common love)” (Pope John Paul II, *The Christian Family in the Modern World*, #11). The Holy Spirit is the third Divine Person that Jesus promised to send us. The Holy Spirit teaches and strengthens us.

# Creation

**Foundation:** *God created everything and He created each person to be united with Him. “Creation is the foundation of ‘all God’s saving plans,’ the ‘beginning of the history of salvation’ that culminates in Christ” (CCC 280).*

**Pre-k and K** God made the world and everything in it. God is our Creator.

- 1<sup>st</sup>** God created us out of love and created the world around us. God made the angels, sun, moon, stars, flowers, animals, man and woman. God made us in His image: He made us able to think and to love.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** God made everything from His love and takes care of all that He has made. He made the angels, the whole world, and everything in it. God made Adam and Eve and all persons above all other creation because He made us to think and to love (This is what it means to be created in His image). God loved Adam and Eve but they said “no” to God’s love by disobeying Him.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** God is our Father Who loves us and cares for us. God created the world and all the creatures in it. God created each person to be united with Himself through sanctifying grace. Only we, as human persons, are able to know and love our Creator. We are called to share by knowledge and love, in God’s own life. It was for this end that we were created, and this is the fundamental reason for our dignity.
- 4<sup>th</sup>** God created the angels. Angels are pure spirits. Some angels chose to rebel against God and became devils. Then God created Adam and Eve in His own image and likeness. As images of God, Adam and Eve could think and love. Adam and Eve were united with God by sharing in His Divine Life through sanctifying grace. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and lost the gift of grace within their soul. Sanctifying grace is a share in God’s own Life. However, God still loved them and promised to send a Redeemer to reunite God and His children.
- 5<sup>th</sup>** God created everything, both visible, material things as well as invisible, spiritual things, such as the human soul. God created Adam and Eve as the crown of creation because the human person is created to be in friendship with God. Furthermore, God gave Adam and Eve a higher position (dominion) over the earth, which means responsibility to take care of creation (stewardship).
- 6<sup>th</sup>** Only human beings are created in God’s image, having a mind to think and a free will to choose to love. As images of God, we are created with great dignity and worth because we have the capacity to know and love God and to share in His Divine Life. God is a personal God who invites us into friendship with Him.
- 7<sup>th</sup>** God created everything to share in His wisdom, power and love. In creation, we see rocks, plants, and animals that are part of the physical world. Angels are part of the spiritual world and human persons are part of both the physical and spiritual worlds, having a body and an immortal (spiritual) soul. God the Father, God the Holy Spirit and angels are persons without bodies while human beings are persons with bodies. Jesus Christ became a man, and therefore had a human body. (This is called the hypostatic union in which Jesus, a Divine Person with a divine nature took on a human nature) (CCC 468, 480-483). For the human person, it is the body through which we express our love and our feelings.
- 8<sup>th</sup>** God created man and woman in His own image with a mind for knowing the truth and a will for loving. Adam and Eve were perfectly free: they were not subject to suffering and death. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Our first parents misused their freedom by choosing to act against God’s will, thereby not acting in truth and love. Thus, Adam and Eve committed the Original Sin which caused separation from God, destroying the union with God for which they were created. Only God would be able to fix this problem caused by sin. We are descendants of Adam and Eve and therefore are born with original sin and suffer its effects (CCC 404-405).



## **Jesus Christ**

**Foundation:** *Jesus is the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Jesus is the Word of God. Jesus Christ is truly God and man. Through the Original Sin, we were separated from God. Jesus came into the world to save us from sin and to reconcile us with the Father.*

**Pre-k and K** Jesus is God the Son. He is our Savior and He loves us.

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Jesus is the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Because Jesus really is the Son of God, He could tell us the truth about God. Jesus also did wonderful things called miracles; healing the sick, feeding the hungry, bringing the dead back to life and rising from the dead, which was His greatest miracle.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** The Son of God came from Heaven to be our Savior: He was born as a baby and grew to be a man so He could share in our human life. He suffered and died on the cross to offer Himself as a perfect sacrifice to His Father to show His love and to make up for our sins.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** Jesus reveals God to us because He is God. He shows us what God is like: gentle and just, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and full of love. He came to us as our Teacher and Savior. By accepting death on the cross, Jesus continued His perfect obedience and service to the end so we could be obedient and offer our service to God. He showed us how to act and gave us the ability to act like Him (grace).
- 4<sup>th</sup>** Jesus is both truly God and truly man; as a man, He has a body like ours. He is a Divine Person, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity.
- 5<sup>th</sup>** Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is also called the Son of Man because He was born to the Blessed Virgin Mary. When the Son of God became man, He took on human flesh - was incarnated in a human body. This is called the Incarnation. Jesus became man in order to reunite us with Himself by forgiving us of our sins through His death and Resurrection, and by giving us sanctifying grace through the Sacraments. Sanctifying grace is a share in God's own Life.
- 6<sup>th</sup>** Jesus came to establish the New Covenant, not setting aside the Ten Commandments but perfecting them. The foundation of all law is God's love for us. Jesus teaches that the capstone of all law is our love for God.
- 7<sup>th</sup>** Jesus became man to show us who we are and how to act through His three offices of priest, prophet and king. Jesus, the greatest Prophet was the teacher of God's truth. As Priest, He offered Himself in loving sacrifice to the Father. As King, He came to begin the Kingdom of God upon earth, making Himself the servant of all, for He came "not to be served but to serve" (Matthew 20:28).
- 8<sup>th</sup>** Jesus is referred to in Scripture as the Word of God (John 1:1-3). Jesus Christ showed His perfect love for us by dying on the cross and rising from the dead so that our sins could be forgiven and we could be reunited with the Father. Moreover, the sacrifice of Christ on the cross for our sins opened the gates of Heaven and made it possible for those who die in God's grace and friendship to live forever with Him in the perfect joy of Heaven.

# The Holy Spirit

**Foundation:** *The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity and is the bond of love between the Father and the Son. Through His grace, the Holy Spirit is the first to awaken faith in us, which allows us to know and love the Father and the Son. “The Holy Spirit is the source and giver of all holiness” (CCC 749).*

**Pre-k and K** God the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

- 1st** Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles to help them and give them grace.
- 2nd** The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person. He is pure Spirit. The Holy Spirit came down from Heaven in the form of a dove and rested upon Jesus when John baptized Him. Because He is pure Spirit, we cannot see the Holy Spirit and therefore the dove is a sign that He is present. We receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives us the strength to follow Jesus when it is especially difficult to follow Him.
- 3rd** After He returned to the Father, Jesus sent to His followers the Gift of the Holy Spirit to help guide the Apostles and the Church in carrying on His work. We receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The Holy Spirit helps us to act like Jesus when it is especially difficult.
- 4th** The Holy Spirit loves Jesus and the Father. Jesus and the Father love the Holy Spirit. We receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism. The Holy Spirit helps us to come to know the Father and the Son (CCC 683-684). The Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray. Consequently, we should pray to the Holy Spirit to help us remember our sins and to be sorry for our sins as we prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- 5th** God the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Sacred Scripture to write down God’s message to His people. The Catholic Church gathered together these inspired writings into the Bible, which has not changed since its inception.
- 6th** The Holy Spirit has been present throughout all of history: The Holy Spirit inspired the Old Testament prophets; through the power of the Holy Spirit Mary conceived Jesus; the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove at His Baptism; the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles on Pentecost to strengthen them supernaturally to manifest publicly the Catholic Church. This included preaching the Gospel, celebrating the Sacraments and governing the people in the practice of the Faith. Moreover, the Holy Spirit continues to be present in the Church today.
- 7th** The Holy Spirit guides the shepherds of the Church so that they teach the truth as given to the Apostles by Jesus Christ. In addition, the Holy Spirit protects the Pope and the Church from error when, as the leader of the Church, he defines doctrines (Church teachings) on faith and morals. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit protects the teachings of all the other bishops when they are teaching in union with the Pope.
- 8th** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and Love. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity in the Sacrament of Baptism. As “the interior Teacher of Christian prayer,” the Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray and to believe, trust and love Jesus (CCC 2681). Moreover, in the Sacrament of Confirmation, our friendship with the Holy Spirit is deepened as we learn to recognize His promptings and biddings to follow the will of God. In addition, the Holy Spirit strengthens us to overcome temptations and make right choices as well as to spread and defend the Catholic Faith.

# The Church

**Foundation:** *The Catholic Church has a Divine origin, being instituted by Christ and is the principle means of bringing people to God. “The Church in this world is the Sacrament of Salvation, the sign and the instrument of the communion of God and men” (CCC 780).*

**Pre-k and K** Jesus founded the Catholic Church. Baptism makes us members of God’s family, which is the Church.

**1<sup>st</sup>** The Church, like Jesus, teaches us about God. Like Jesus, the Church feeds the poor, cares for the sick, and helps us to know how to act.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Jesus is with us through the Church. The Church loves and cares for us the way Jesus does; the Church teaches us what Jesus taught and helps us to know how to act. Through the Church we receive the Sacraments, in which Jesus shares His love and strength with us.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** The New Testament tells us how the Church began. Jesus chose twelve men to be the leaders of His Church with Peter as the Head, the first Pope. Our Pope and Bishops continue Christ’s work of bringing us closer to God.

**4<sup>th</sup>** The Bible, which is God’s Word, contains the writings that were inspired by the Holy Spirit. It was by the apostolic Tradition that the Catholic Church discerned through prayer “which writings are to be included in the list of the sacred books. This complete list is called the canon of Scripture” (CCC 120, 105). It includes 46 books for the Old Testament and 27 for the New. The Bible and the teachings of the Church (Sacred Tradition) are two important sources of our knowledge about God (CCC 81).

**5<sup>th</sup>** Jesus gave the seven Sacraments to the Church through which we can experience His love and mercy in being united with Him. We receive the Sacraments through the Church. When we are baptized, we become members of God’s family, the Church.

**6<sup>th</sup>** Jesus chose Peter as the leader of His Church and made him the first Pope. Furthermore, Jesus gave to the Apostles the power to bring God’s mercy and forgiveness to all Christians. This power has been passed on to the pope, bishops, and priests whom God has called and will continue to call to carry on Christ’s work of bringing people closer to God.

**7<sup>th</sup>** Jesus commissioned the Apostles to hand on the teachings that He had given them while He was with them (Matthew 28:16-20). The teachings of Jesus are summarized in the Apostles’ Creed. The Church that Jesus founded has four marks or defining characteristics which are expressed in the Nicene Creed: the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

**8<sup>th</sup>** Jesus gave the Church the Sacrament of Holy Orders by ordaining the Apostles at the Last Supper, making them the first priests and bishops. He asked the Apostles to carry on His mission, by handing on the teachings of the Catholic Church (teaching), celebrating the Sacraments (sanctifying) and leading the people (governing). Jesus gave the Apostles the authority to ordain other men as bishops and priests. As bishops and priests, they receive from Jesus the power to forgive sins and to change the bread and wine into His Body and Blood during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

## Mary and the Saints

**Foundation:** *The saints led a life in union with God through cooperating with the grace of Christ. These holy ones have received the reward of eternal life with God in Heaven. Moreover, “by her complete adherence to the Father’s will, to His Son’s redemptive work, and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church’s model of faith and charity” and is the most exalted and queen of all the saints (CCC 967).*

- Pre-k and K** A saint is a person who came to know and love God, lived close to God and is united with Him in Heaven. In addition to being a saint, Mary is also the Mother of God. Mary watches over us from Heaven with much love and leads us to Jesus.
- 1<sup>st</sup>** The Church declares (canonizes) certain persons as saints to present them to us as role models. We study the lives of the saints in order to follow their example of loving Jesus. It is important to study the life of Mary because she loves Jesus with all her heart. God sent the angel Gabriel to ask her to be the Mother of His Son. Mary said yes to God. During the entire course of her life, she loved God so much that in her whole life she always said yes to God. Mary never sinned. Furthermore, Mary teaches us about Jesus our Savior.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** Just as we are able to ask friends and family members to pray for us, we can ask the saints in Heaven to pray for us. Furthermore, we can ask Mary to pray for us as she is the Queen of all saints. God the Father chose her to be the Mother of the Savior. In addition, Jesus gave Mary to us as our Mother to love and care for us. Mary loves us very much. We should love her as Jesus did. Mary will keep us from sin and lead us to her loving Son and our Savior.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** The saints want us to be with them in Heaven. They can pray for us. The Blessed Virgin Mary is a saint and can pray for us. Mary is the Mother of Jesus. Jesus is God the Son. Therefore, Mary is the Mother of God. Mary was with Jesus when He was crucified, suffering with Him. Jesus gave Mary to us as our Mother to love and care for us.
- 4<sup>th</sup>** Mary offered her prayer to God in response to the words of the Angel Gabriel: “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Mary is the perfect “pray-er”. We can pray with her and to her (CCC 2679).
- 5<sup>th</sup>** The process by which the Church declares someone to be a saint is known as canonization. The greatest of all the saints is Mary. God created her “full of grace” so that she could become the mother of the Savior (CCC 490). Mary never fails those who go to her in prayer.
- 6<sup>th</sup>** The Communion of Saints consists of Christ’s disciples who are still pilgrims on earth, those believers who have died and are being purified in Purgatory and the saints who are already with God in Heaven (CCC 954). In addition to Mary being a saint, Jesus gave Mary to us to be our Mother at the foot of the Cross. She is also the Mother of the Church (CCC 963).
- 7<sup>th</sup>** Mary was conceived without original sin, which we call the Immaculate Conception. Mary grew in God’s grace in preparation for becoming the Mother of God the Son. Jesus is her Savior, too! At the wedding feast of Cana, Mary asks Jesus to supply for the needs of the couple. Mary’s words to the stewards also help us: “Do whatever He tells you” (John 2:1-12) (CCC 2618).
- 8<sup>th</sup>** When Mary’s life on earth ended, she was taken up body and soul into Heaven (the Assumption). Mary continues to pray (intercede) for us her children and always leads us to Jesus. “In a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior’s work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a Mother to us in the order of grace” (CCC 968)

# Liturgy and Sacraments

**Foundation:** *The word liturgy includes the seven Sacraments (with the Holy Eucharist at the center of the Sacraments) the Liturgy of the Hours, the liturgical year, and sacramentals (CCC 1210-1211, 1174, 1168, 1667). Jesus instituted the seven Sacraments so that we could receive sanctifying grace, a share in God's Divine Life. Jesus instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of His Body and Blood "in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages (CCC 1323). "It is Christ Himself, who, acting through the ministry of the priest, offers the Eucharistic sacrifice" (CCC 1410).*

**Pre-k and K** When we are baptized, we become children of God and a member of His family, the Church. At Mass, Jesus blesses us and we pray to Jesus.

- 1st** Jesus healed people who were sick, fed people who were hungry, went to weddings, and forgave sinners. Jesus shows His love for us by giving Himself to us in the Holy Eucharist.
- 2nd** A Sacrament is a physical sign given to us by Jesus through which Jesus shares Himself and His love with us. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can tell Jesus, in the person of the priest, that we are sorry for our sins and receive His forgiveness. Jesus gives us His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, which helps us to give God the Father obedience and service.
- 3rd** We keep Sunday holy by attending Mass. The Sacrifice of the Mass continues (makes present) Jesus' Sacrifice of the Cross; Jesus is offered on the altar again but without shedding His Blood (CCC 1364). Together with the priest, we offer Jesus to the Father, the most perfect gift we can ever give to God. We also offer our life of obedience and service to the Father like Jesus.
- 4th** At Mass, the priest prays the same words that Jesus said at the Last Supper over the bread and wine and the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus (CCC 1375, 1353). This is the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The sacrifice of the Mass is an offering of Jesus' obedience and service to the Father, which He did on the Cross.
- 5th** Through Baptism, original sin is washed away and we receive God's love and a share in His life, which is called sanctifying grace. Along with sanctifying grace in Baptism, God gives us the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- 6th** The source of the Sacraments is Jesus love for the Father and us, which He showed by His death on the Cross. Jesus' suffering (passion), Death, Resurrection from the dead and Ascension into Heaven, that is called the Paschal Mystery, destroyed our death and restored our life (CCC 1067). The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the Sacrament we receive after Baptism that forgives our sins and restores our relationship with God.
- 7th** The ministerial priesthood (ordained bishops and priests) and the common priesthood of the faithful participate, each its own way, in the priesthood of Christ. However, they differ essentially. Through the celebration of the Sacraments, priests exercise their ministerial priesthood in service to the laity. The common priesthood of the faithful is exercised by a life of Faith, Hope and Charity, responding to the interior promptings of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1547).
- 8th** "The seven Sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life. There is thus a certain resemblance between the stages of natural life and the stages of the spiritual life" (CCC 1210). "The purpose of the Sacraments is to sanctify us, to build up the Body of Christ and, finally, to give worship to God" (CCC 1123). In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are called to participate in Christ's mission as priest, prophet and king (CCC 1547). In Confirmation we receive and are strengthened by the Holy Spirit so that we can spread and defend the Catholic Faith in all that we say and do.

## Life of Grace and the Moral Life

**Foundation:** *We are created by God and for God, to be united with Him both here on earth and forever in Heaven. God has given us a conscience which urges us “to do what is good and avoid what is evil” (CCC 1713). Having been wounded in our nature by original sin, we are subject to error and inclined to choose against God in exercising our freedom. The grace of Christ strengthens us to choose the good.*

**Pre-k and K** God loves us. We are to love God, ourselves and others. We are to show our love for God by choosing to treat people the way God treats us and the way that He wants us to treat others.

- 1st** Jesus teaches us to be kind to others and to love them as He loves us. Jesus calls us to follow Him. Jesus and the Church help us to know how to act. Grace is a share in God’s life. Grace helps us to treat people the way God wants us to and to say yes to God’s love.
- 2nd** Jesus became man to show us who we are and how we are to act. When we make right choices we act as Jesus taught us. There are two types of sin: mortal sin and venial sin. With a mortal sin, we are saying no to our friendship with God and the relationship with Him is destroyed. With venial sin, we hurt our friendship with God. To prepare and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation we should make a good examination of conscience.
- 3rd** Adam and Eve lost God’s life, sanctifying grace, when they sinned through disobedience. This was the Original Sin. We all inherit original sin from Adam and Eve. We commit personal sin when: 1) we know something is wrong 2) we have the freedom to choose 3) we do the wrong thing anyway. Like Adam and Eve, we are tempted, which means having thoughts or being urged or pushed to do the wrong thing. However, we do not sin if we refuse to do the wrong thing.
- 4th** Grace makes it possible to live with God someday in Heaven. We receive sanctifying grace in the Sacraments, which helps us to love God and our neighbor. Grace helps us to avoid what is wrong, for example, lying, cheating or being unkind to siblings. Grace also helps us to do what is right by being generous and looking for opportunities to help our families and others. Thinking about what is right and good before acting on feelings will help us to make good decisions.
- 5th** All people are made to the image of God and deserve dignity and respect. However, this image of God within us has been marred by original sin and personal sin. It is through the grace that Christ won for us through His Death and Resurrection that the divine image has been restored within us (CCC 1701).
- 6th** God gave us a conscience so that we could know right from wrong according to the law written on our heart. However, it is hard to avoid what is wrong and do what is right. This is why God teaches us about right and wrong through the Bible, the Church, and personal prayer. This is why it is important for us to listen to God in prayer and let God help us to make up our mind what to do (conscience). In following Christ, we are called to live according to the Beatitudes.
- 7th** God has written the natural law on our heart by which everyone has a basic sense of right and wrong (Romans 2:15). In addition, God has given us free will and the dignity of choice. We seek to live by God’s law because of His love for us. Through His Laws of love, He shows us what is necessary to bring us real happiness.
- 8th** There are two types of grace: sanctifying grace and actual grace. Sanctifying grace is a share in God’s Divine Life through which God establishes a loving relationship with us. Actual grace is God’s help to do what is right (CCC 2000). We can see that God gives us all the gifts we need which enable us to receive real happiness in this life and to attain Heaven. We find true meaning in life in our service to God by serving others.

## Dignity of the Human Person

**Foundation:** Each person “is called to share, by knowledge and love, in God’s own life.” It was for this end that each person was created, and this is the fundamental reason for the dignity (worth) of the human person (CCC 356).

**Pre-k and K** Each person is created with a body and a soul.

**1<sup>st</sup>** We have an immortal soul, which allows us to know and love. God gave this to us so we would know and love Him.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** By the power of knowing and loving God, we have a special worth over other earthly creatures. This worth is called “dignity.”

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Through Baptism, we come to know and love God by “faith” and “charity.” Baptism gives us a new “dignity” (worth) as adopted sons and daughters of God.

**4<sup>th</sup>** God created us by giving us an immortal soul. Being a “person” who can know and love God gives man and woman a special worth or “dignity.” All persons have equal dignity and dignity cannot be taken away. Furthermore, persons differ in talents and abilities but not in dignity. Dignity is not determined by how productive a person is in society. For example, a mentally handicapped person or a terminally ill person has the same dignity as a healthy person. Animals and plants have value and are important to us but they do not have dignity.

**5<sup>th</sup>** God created us in His image (Genesis 1:27). This means that we can think, choose and love like God. We do this through following His laws of love as well as living especially by the Beatitudes. Sin distorts the likeness of God in us and lowers our perception of our dignity.

**6<sup>th</sup>** Jesus Christ always used His abilities the way God wanted Him to. By giving ourselves to Christ and allowing Him to work through us, we grow in being the “image and likeness of God.” The Sacraments help us to become more like Jesus and to act like Him because the Sacraments give grace. When we use God’s gifts with the help of His grace, we grow in dignity and become more like God. By sinning, we lower the perception of our own dignity and the dignity of others. Everyone has the basic dignity of being a person, that is, a creature that is able to know and love the Creator. When we use our abilities to think and choose the way God does, we help other people to see the goodness of God.

**7<sup>th</sup>** God has given us the Theological Virtues (supernatural), the Moral Virtues (natural) and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (supernatural) to live our dignity as children of God. The Theological Virtues lead us to believe and hope in God and love Him and our neighbor (CCC 1814, 1817, 1822). The moral virtues govern our actions to practice the good toward our neighbor (CCC 1804). Modesty is a moral virtue that guides how one respects the dignity of other persons. The virtue of chastity helps us freely love and respect others as images of God. It requires self-mastery and self-discipline. God calls us to the practice of chastity so that we can imitate the purity of Christ (CCC 2522, 2337-2345). The Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts makes it possible to imitate Christ.

**8<sup>th</sup>** God willed that man and woman were created with equal dignity but with fundamental differences. (CCC 369). Furthermore, God created man and woman to be in communion with Himself and with others through friendship. Through Baptism, man and woman enter into this communion with God, and seek to grow in holiness of life, which is the primary vocation. We share in God’s Divine nature through sanctifying grace received in the Sacraments, which further elevates our dignity (2 Peter 1:4). In addition, Christ calls each person to follow Him in a specific vocation: as a married person, as a single person, as a consecrated person or an ordained priest.

# The Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell

**Foundation:** *Death is the separation of the soul from the body and is a result of original sin. The meeting of our Lord and judgment by Him at the moment of our death is called the Particular Judgment. There will also be a Final Judgment in which Jesus will judge the living and the dead. The goal of the deepest longings of the human heart is to be with the Blessed Trinity in Heaven (CCC 1024). “We cannot be united with God unless we freely choose to love Him...To die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God’s merciful love means remaining separated from Him forever by our own free choice” (CCC 1033). Hell is not only physical torment but the definitive loss of God.*

**Pre-k and K** When we die, if we have lived the way God wants us to, it will be the beginning of new life with God in Heaven.

- 1<sup>st</sup> We were created to have peace and joy and do God’s will on earth so that when we die, we can live with Him in Heaven.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> We believe that Jesus will come again. We believe in the resurrection of the body and that we can live with God forever. God will help us to get ready to live in Heaven.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven is the place of perfect happiness and love. Hell is the place of physical torment and the eternal separation from God where there is no love. Our soul gives life to our bodies and lives on after the body dies.
- 4<sup>th</sup> We believe in the resurrection of the body and that we can live with God forever. God will help us to get ready to live in Heaven. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead at the end of time. Those who have followed Him in loving God and others will go to Heaven. We should pray for those who have died especially for the souls in Purgatory.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Our souls are immortal. Death is the separation of our soul from our body. If we make the right choices in our lives and die as friends of God, we will live forever with Him in Heaven. At the end of the world we will receive a glorified body that will be reunited with our soul.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Death is one of the effects of Adam and Eve’s sin, not part of God’s original plan. After death our soul will come immediately before God, Who will present our lives to us and we will know whether we have really loved God. If God’s life in us is strong enough, we will go to Heaven. If our love for God is not perfect enough for Heaven, we will go to Purgatory, a temporary separation from Heaven where a person’s love for God is purified. If we have chosen to separate ourselves from God, we will go to Hell. Hell is a place of eternal separation from God where there is no love of God, no love of neighbor and no love of self.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Mortal sin separates us from God and takes away the possibility of entering Heaven. When a person is near death, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is given. The Anointing of the Sick gives the person the strength to be sorry for sin and to resist temptation so that his/her friendship with God can be stronger on receiving the Sacrament and at the moment of death.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Death is a separation of soul and body. After we die we will be judged individually (Particular Judgment). If we have loved God completely, we will go to Heaven, a place of perfect peace, happiness and love. If we still have sinful attachments at the moment of death, we will go to Purgatory to have our soul cleansed and purified of all our sins before we can enter the joy of Heaven. If we have freely chosen to reject God through lack of faith and charity, we will go to Hell. Hell is the “unquenchable fire,” eternal punishment, and painful torment (Mt 5:22, 29, 10:28; 13:42, Mk 9:43-48). At the General Judgment, when Jesus Christ comes to judge the living and the dead, our bodies will be restored to us in the form of a glorified body (resurrection of the body).



# Prayer and Devotional Life

**Foundation:** *Prayer is the way that we grow in friendship with the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. God calls us to the encounter with Him known as prayer. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray and assists us to pray with our heart. We are to adore God in prayer because He is our Creator and we are His creatures. We are to ask His forgiveness and mercy when we offend Him through disobeying one of His commandments. We are to thank God for everything He has given us. Jesus told us to ask for everything that we need, especially His guidance and strength.*

**Pre-k and K** Prayer is listening and talking with Jesus. We want to talk with Jesus everyday. In the Bible, Jesus invites us to talk with Him and God the Father just like we talk with anyone else.

**1<sup>st</sup>** We can pray everyday first of all by listening to God and then, by responding in our singing and praising, telling Jesus that we love Him, that we are sorry. We can thank Him and ask Him to help us to be good. We show our love for Jesus by being devoted to His Sacred Heart. This is a devotion to the love of God, which is symbolized in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** We can pray to Mary when we need help; she will pray to Jesus for us and will help us to get to Heaven. We can pray to our guardian angel to guide and protect us. God has provided us with many things, which help us to understand that God loves us. The symbol of this love is the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** We know how much Jesus loves us because He allowed Himself to be crucified so that our sins could be forgiven. One way to remind ourselves of His great love is to pray in front of the crucifix. This symbol of love draws us to serve God and our neighbor more lovingly. We want to pray the “Our Father” every day, asking God for all that we need. In praying the Rosary, we remember the mysteries (the different events) of Jesus’ life as well as those of Mary.

**4<sup>th</sup>** The more we listen to Jesus, the easier it is to talk with Him. We want to grow in our devotion to the Sacred Heart, so that we may remain more faithfully in the company of our Lord Jesus who dwells with us always in the Church, especially in the Holy Eucharist. The particular object of this devotion is the immense love of the Son of God, by which He delivered Himself up to death for us and to give Himself entirely to us in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

**5<sup>th</sup>** When we participate in the Mass, we share in the priest’s action by offering our obedience and service along with Jesus as a sacrifice to God; this is the best prayer we can offer to God. To offer ourselves with Jesus means to do God’s will and to give up anything that keeps us from giving God obedience and service. Jesus Christ shows us His infinite love by giving Himself in the Holy Eucharist.

**6<sup>th</sup>** An important way to return Christ’s love is to be devoted to His Sacred Heart. “The enthronement is bound essentially to the Holy Eucharist, for it aims to bring Christ, truly present on the altars of sacrifice and in the tabernacles of our parish churches, into our homes

**7<sup>th</sup>** Prayer is required of us by the First Commandment; prayer is a raising of our mind and heart to God. We are able to express our love for Jesus by having a special devotion to His Sacred Heart. We can enthrone the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to signify that Christ is the One who gives inspiration and direction to each member of the household and to students in the classroom.

**8<sup>th</sup>** “Prayer is both a gift of grace and a determined response on our part” (CCC 2725). We must develop a prayer life proper to our age level. As we mature in prayer, we can make use of the different expressions of prayer: vocal prayer, meditation and contemplative prayer.

# Vocations

**Foundation:** *From the moment of our baptism, God has a special plan for each of us. God calls us to life in Christ, in order that, with Christ, we may offer our whole life in love of God and our neighbor. At our Confirmation, God strengthens and increases the life of the Holy Spirit within us, so that we will have the inspiration and strength to respond to God's call.*

**Pre-k and K** God knows and loves each person. From the moment of our Baptism, God has a special plan for each person.

**1<sup>st</sup>** God calls each person by name and has a special plan for his/her life (cf. Isaiah 43:1). Every Christian is called by God to be holy, to love and serve God and his/her neighbor with the help of His grace. Each person is invited to a personal friendship with Jesus Christ. (CCC 1604)

**2<sup>nd</sup>** God knows and loves each person. From the moment of our Baptism, God has a special plan for each person. The call from God is called a vocation. This special plan for our life will bring us the greatest joy and peace.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** God has given each person unique talents and gifts. God has a special plan for each person's life to use these gifts in the service of others and the building of His Kingdom.

**4<sup>th</sup>** Children should be encouraged and assisted to pray each day to deepen their friendship with Jesus. In this friendship, they are called to imitate Jesus Christ. (CCC 520, 521) This is our primary vocation, to love God in obedience and service to others through a life of charity (holiness of life). (CCC 44, 1604) From the moment of Baptism, God has a special plan for each person.

**5<sup>th</sup>** God has a call on each person's life. Through prayer and wise guidance, each person needs to discover his/her personal vocation, for that is the way to discover the role God wishes each to play in His plan of salvation. The path of our vocation involves treating people the way that God treats us. This discovery, through prayer and discernment with the help of spiritual guides (parents, priests, teachers) to know God's will, is a gradual process, which happens day by day.

**6<sup>th</sup>** Our personal vocation is not mainly what we choose to do but primarily what we have been chosen for. God has given each person distinct gifts. We seek to discover the adventure of life, which God has planned for us in order to use these gifts to serve the Church and the world. Christ calls each person to follow Him in a special way as a married person, a dedicated single person, a consecrated person, a deacon or an ordained priest. These are the personal vocations by which we respond to live God's primary call, the vocation to love God (holiness of life).

**7<sup>th</sup>** God reveals our personal vocation through the deepest desires of our heart, through the circumstances of life, and through conversations with people we trust. Quiet prayer provides the opportunity to recognize that these desires actually originate from God and reveal the manner of serving others that will bring the greatest personal joy and fulfillment. Our personal vocation is the means by which we draw closer to God. A vocation does not just concern the individual person because a vocation involves serving others and building up the Church, the family of God. We should pray for the grace to serve God in our vocation with an undivided heart.

**8<sup>th</sup>** Young people need to pray each day to know their personal vocation in life, to discover God's call. Discovering one's vocation is not the same thing as planning one's life. This discovery is based on such questions as: "What does God want from me?" and "How does God want me to use the gifts He has given me?" "How is God calling me to serve Him by serving my neighbor?" and "What plan does God have for my life that will bring me the most joy and fulfillment?" The planning and organizing comes after the discovery (discernment) of God's personal call.

# **God's Plan of Salvation History**

*An overview of God's Plan of Salvation History is to be presented at the beginning of each year. Please make the presentation appropriate to the grade level.*

1. God is a communion of Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The three Persons in one God is the Blessed Trinity. God has no beginning and no end. (CCC 234, 232, 237)
2. God is our Father Who loves us and cares for us. God created each person to be united with Him. (CCC 426, 301, 759, 305, 375, 2014)
3. God created everything out of nothing. (CCC 296-298, 338)
4. God created angels as spiritual beings. Angels are God's messengers. We all have our own personal guardian angel. Our guardian angel keeps constant, watchful care over us and guides us and protects us on our journey to God in Heaven. (CCC 328-329, 331-333, 336)
5. All of the angels were put to a test to see if they would be faithful to God. Lucifer and some of the angels completely rejected God and they became Satan and his demons. (Revelation 12:7-9) (CCC 391-395)
6. God created Adam and Eve in His image and likeness. He created Adam and Eve and the whole human race to know, love and serve Him so that we can be united with Him both here and forever in Heaven. Adam and Eve were united fully with God through sanctifying grace within their souls, a participation in God's Divine Life. (CCC, 362-366, 356-357, 374-376, 1934)
7. Adam and Eve were put to a test to see if they would be faithful to God. Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and they disobeyed God. The first sin of Adam and Eve (the Original Sin) separated them from God. They and all their descendants lost the union with God that they had been created for. They no longer had sanctifying grace within their souls. (CCC 396-400, 402-406, 418)
8. God alone could fix the problem of sin and reunite mankind with Himself. Thankfully, God promised a Savior (Genesis 3:15). Only the Savior could bring us back to the purpose for which we were created being united with God (communion with God). In the Old Testament, God began to form His people through Abraham. Moses was given the Law so that the people knew how to live in order to be faithful to the one true God. The Israelites could not be faithful to the God's Law because they did not have sanctifying grace, a share in God's life, to strengthen them. The prophets told the people to prepare for the Messiah, Who would bring about a salvation which would include all the nations. Through the Savior, God would keep His promise to reunite us with Himself as adopted children. (CCC 410-412, 420-421, 54-64, 2570-2589)
9. Jesus is God. Jesus was born as man on the first Christmas as our Savior. This is called the Incarnation. (CCC 464, 461, 463, 443-445)
10. Mary's "yes" to God to be the Mother of Jesus made our salvation possible. Since Mary is the Mother of Jesus and Jesus is God, we rightly call Mary the Mother of God. (CCC 494-495, 497, 509, 485, 723)
11. Jesus began the foundation of the Church by preaching the Good News, instituting the seven sacraments and establishing the Church with a structure. The structure consisted of the twelve Apostles with Peter as the head. (CCC 763-766, 759, 1114)
12. Jesus suffered, died on the cross and rose on Easter Sunday. Jesus did this to save us from the power of sin and death and to reunite us with Himself. (CCC 612, 616, 619, 629, 639-640, 654)

## **Overview / Scope**

- 13.** The Church was born from the flow of blood and water from the open side of the crucified Christ: the water of Baptism and the Blood of the Eucharist. (CCC 766)
- 14.** Christ's work of redemption was accomplished primarily by His Suffering, Death, Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven. These four events are called the Paschal Mystery. (CCC 1067)
- 15.** Forty days after the Resurrection Jesus ascended to His Father, which we celebrate on the Ascension. Ten days later, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to remain with us until the end of time. (CCC 665, 731-732, 233)
- 16.** At Pentecost the Holy Spirit strengthened the Apostles to imitate Christ. The Holy Spirit empowered them to administer the Sacraments, to teach what Jesus had taught them and to lead the Church. Pentecost is when we celebrate the public manifestation of the Catholic Church. (CCC 767, 747, 771-773, 1585, 780, 1076)
- 17.** This was the first time that mankind received sanctifying grace, a participation in God's Divine Life, since the original sin of Adam and Eve. We are only able to live the Christian life with the aid of supernatural grace received through the Church by the Sacraments and from actual grace through a life of daily prayer. (CCC 1226-1228, 1265-1266, 747, 1996-2000)
- 18.** Jesus will come again in glory with the Kingdom of God in its fullness. He will judge the living and the dead and those who have chosen to follow Jesus will reign forever with Him. He will bring His Family into full union with Him and put an end to suffering and death forever. (CCC 1040, 1042-1045)



The Crucifixion by Raffaello