

**St Robert Bellarmine Parish School of Religion  
Curriculum Guide**

**2008**

This curriculum guide has been produced to help teachers in lesson planning each year.

It presents the main objectives for learning at each grade level based on those outlined in the Elementary Religion Curriculum Standard published by the Archdiocese of St Louis in 1999.

It presents, too, basic prayers for memorization at each grade level, factual information to be learned from Scripture and Church doctrine, and formative exercises, including familiarity with the saints. At each grade level, it is important that we give students an opportunity to express what they have learned through service, to put knowledge to work and to make a difference in the lives of our families.

This guide is not intended to stifle creativity, nor to restrict what is taught, but to help teachers discern what should be emphasized at each grade level and considered basic knowledge that should be attained before promotion to the next. Teachers are encouraged to embellish the learning experience through the use of games, song, story-telling, and crafts as appropriate for the different grade levels. Resources are available to help teachers develop their own creativity in the classroom.

“Safe Touch” is a program designed by the archdiocese to help children recognize the dignity that they possess as children of God, to realize that they have the right to say no to situations that make them feel physically threatened or uncomfortable, and to give them the information they need to be able to avoid or to stop these situations. Currently, only those trained specifically to do so may teach “Safe Touch”.

“God’s Own Making” is the only chastity program authorized for use in parish schools of religion in the Archdiocese of St Louis. Parish schools of religion are required to offer these classes and parental permission is required. “God’s Own Making” has three components:

1. Respect for the dignity of the human person.
2. Respect for differences.
3. Sexual relationships must be life-giving and love-giving.

Biology and physiology are left for instruction by the parents and are not to be addressed in the classroom. Only those teachers that have completed the Paul VI Institute class called “Foundations of Morality” may present these components. All teachers are encouraged to take this class.

This guide is a tool and may be altered as necessary. Teachers should feel free to offer their own experiences and opinions for consideration in order that the tool might serve the parish school optimally.

It is essential to remember that children learn in different ways and lesson plans should reflect the various learning styles. Service projects, participation in liturgy and different types of prayer, drama and skits, role-playing, song, and games can be invaluable to the learning experience and should be included as appropriate.

## **Grade One**

1. Students will express an understanding and appreciation of God the Father as Creator.
2. Students will express an understanding of Jesus as Son of God and our brother and friend.
3. Students will describe the Holy Spirit as our Helper and Guide.
4. Students will identify the Trinity as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
5. Students will identify Mary as the Mother of Jesus and our Mother.
6. Students will define Baptism as joining the family of the Catholic Church.
7. Students will come to recognize the saints as our heroes in faith.
8. Students will recognize prayer as listening and talking to God and will participate in the traditional prayers of the Church,
9. Students will recognize the celebration of the Eucharist as the main prayer of the Church.

**Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the spring of the year unless parent(s) decline.**

**The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:**

Sign of the Cross	Our Father
Hail Mary	Glory Prayer
Guardian Angel Prayer	Spontaneous Prayer

**The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:**

Creation  
The First Sin and its Punishment  
Noah’s Ark

**The children will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:**

The Annunciation	The Nativity
The Good Samaritan	The Crucifixion
The Resurrection	

**The children will recognize the following saints:**

Mary the Mother of God  
Joseph  
Anne and St Joachim

**The children will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:**

Abraham	Creator	Mass
Advent	Crucifixion	Pentecost
Angel	Easter	Respect
Annunciation	Eucharist	Resurrection
Ascension	Faith	Sacraments
Baptism	Gospel	Saints
Bethlehem	Hallowed	Samaritan
Bible	Holy Trinity	Sin
Christians	Jerusalem	Temple
Christmas	Law	Vocation
Church	Last Supper	
Commandments	Lent	

**In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the children will:**

Make greeting cards once a month to be delivered to shut-ins

## **Grade Two**

1. Students will express a basic understanding of the word sacrament.
2. Students will express an understanding of the concept of sin
3. Students will express feelings of sorrow / contrition.
4. Students will relate Reconciliation to healing and forgiveness.
5. Students will express positive feelings toward their experience of celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation.
6. Students will express understanding of the Eucharist as meal, thanksgiving, and sacrifice.
7. Students will profess belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
8. Students will participate actively in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist as the community worship of the Church.

**Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the spring of the year unless parent(s) decline.**

**The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:**

Sign of the Cross

Glory Prayer

Our Father

Guardian Angel Prayer

Hail Mary

Act of Contrition

**The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:**

Abraham and Isaac

Moses and the Ten Commandments

**The children will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:**

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

The Story of the Last Supper

The Road to Emmaus

**The children will recognize the following saints:**

John the Baptist

Francis of Assisi

Patrick

John Vianney

**The children will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:**

Absolution	Eucharistic minister	Liturgy of the Word
Almighty	Eucharistic Prayer	Lying
Anoint	Faith	Mass
Ascension	Galilee	Original Sin
Assembly	Godparents	Parable
Baptism	Gospel	Presider
Believe	Grace	Psalm
Bible	Great Commandment	Reconciliation
Catholics	Heaven	Savior
Confess	Holy	Soul
Confirmation	Holy Communion	Steal
Conscience	Honor	Trespass
Contrition	Hymn	Venial
Covenant	Jewish People	Worship
Deacon	Kingdom of God	
Disciple	Liturgy of the Eucharist	

**In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the children will:**

Make cards to congratulate the RCIA candidates and catechumens.

**Children will work with their families in preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.**

## **Grade Three**

1. Students will identify the Church as the People of God.
2. Students will be able to describe events in the early history of the Church.
3. Students will relate the Pentecost Event and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early Church and express understanding that the Holy Spirit continues to be present in the Church and in individuals today.
4. Students will describe and express understanding of the Marks of the Church.
5. Students will recognize the structure of the liturgical year and its impact on liturgical celebrations.
6. Students will express understanding that the Mass is the great celebration of the Church.
7. Students will distinguish between the various vocations / ministries in the Church and will describe the hierarchy of the Church.
8. Students will begin to understand Church teaching on the communion of saints.

**Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the spring of the year unless parent(s) decline.**

**The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:**

Sign of the Cross  
Our Father  
Hail Mary  
The Apostles Creed

Glory Prayer  
Guardian Angel Prayer  
Act of Contrition  
The Rosary

**The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:**

David  
Esther

**The children will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:**

The Call of the Apostles  
The Passion, Death, and Resurrection  
Pentecost  
The Conversion of St Paul

**The children will recognize the following saints:**

Peter  
Paul  
Mary Magdalen  
Stephen

**The children will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:**

Abba	Good Friday	Old Testament
Actual grace	Heaven	Ordinary Time
Advocate	Hell	Patron saint
Apostles' Creed	Holy Family	Penance
Blessed Sacrament	Holy Orders	Pharisee
Canticle	Humble	Rabbi
Communion of Saints	Judge	Sacraments of Initiation
Conversion	Law of Moses	Sanctifying grace
Covet	Liturgical Year	Scripture
Creed	Liturgy	Steward
Divine Providence	Magnificat	Tabernacle
Easter	Matrimony	Temple
Easter Triduum	Messiah	Visitation
Feast	Miracle	Vocation
Forgive	Nazareth	
Genesis	New Testament	

**In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the children will:**

Students will reach out in service to the community by making "booboo bunnies" at Easter for children in the emergency room at local hospital(s).

## **Grade Four**

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Law of Love, the Beatitudes, and the Ten Commandments as guides for Christian living.
2. Students will identify the Laws of the Church
3. Students will act based on accepting responsibility for their choices.
4. Students will express knowledge and understanding of right and wrong, sin, the meaning of conscience, and virtue.
5. Students will read and recall Scripture passages related to forgiveness.
6. Students will express understanding and appreciation that through the Sacrament of Reconciliation they are truly forgiven.
7. Students will come to a basic understanding of the healing offered through the Anointing of the Sick.
8. Children will be introduced to the Liturgy of the Hours.
9. Students will respond to the Works of Mercy through actions and words.

**Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the spring of the year unless parent(s) decline.**

**Children will participate in “God’s Own Making” with parent permission.**

**The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:**

Sign of the Cross	Glory Prayer
Our Father	Guardian Angel Prayer
Hail Mary	Act of Contrition
The Apostles Creed	The Rosary and Its Mysteries
Hail Holy Queen	

**Children should be able to recite from memory:**

The Ten Commandments	The Precepts of the Church
The Corporal Works of Mercy	The Spiritual Works of Mercy

**The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:**

Moses and the Exodus  
Jeremiah

**The children will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:**

The Sermon on the Mount  
Doubting Thomas  
Jairus’s Daughter  
The Good Shepherd

**The children will recognize the following saints:**

Helena  
Augustine  
Vincent de Paul  
Dorothy Day  
Maximilian Kolbe

**The children will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:**

Adultery	Free will	Obedience
Anointing of the Sick	Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Paschal Mystery
Ark of the Covenant	Greed	Passover
Bear false witness	Holy Orders	People of God
Beatitudes	Honor	Pope
Calvary	Incarnation	Prophet
Confirmation	Intellect	Revealed
Corporal Works of Mercy	Israelites	Sacraments of Healing
Decalogue	Judges of Israel	Sacraments of Service
Deliberate action	Liturgy of the Hours	Synagogue
Domestic Church	Manna	Take in vain
Envy	Messiah	Transubstantiation
Exodus	Ministry	Worship
		Yahweh

**In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the children will:**

Assist pastor with communal Anointing of the Sick.  
Understanding that God reaches out in love and forgiveness to all his people, and that he heals their hearts as well as their bodies, students will send prayers and cards/letters at Valentine's Day through Prison Ministry.

## **Grade Five**

1. Students will have a basic understanding of the Bible's construction and begin to use it in the classroom.
1. Students will be able to identify the four evangelists.
2. Students will be able to explain the meaning of the sacraments and their communal dimension.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the Eucharist as central to Catholic life.
5. Children will come to recognize the liturgical seasons and the colors that represent them.
6. Students will describe the celebration of the seven sacraments, participate in the sacramental life of the community, and identify the seven sacraments in terms of Initiation, Healing, and Service.
7. Students will be able to refer to and reflect upon Scripture texts relating to the sacraments and their institution by Christ.
8. Students will describe the sacraments as life-giving signs of God's gift of grace.
9. Students will use the Creed as a summary of Christian beliefs.
10. Students will identify the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as a means of helping them to make good moral decisions.
11. Students will identify and express positive feelings about the Church's teachings on peace and justice and respect life issues.

**Children will participate in "Safe Touch" in the spring of the year unless parent(s) decline.**

**Children will participate in "God's Own Making" with parent permission.**

**Fifth grade students will receive Bibles in ceremony near the Feast of St Jerome. These Bibles are to be referenced and used in the classroom throughout the year and in subsequent years.**

**The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:**

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

The Apostles Creed

The Nicene Creed

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Glory Prayer

Guardian Angel Prayer

Act of Contrition

The Rosary and Its Mysteries

Hail Holy Queen

**Children should be able to recite from memory:**

The Ten Commandments  
The Corporal Works of Mercy  
The Holydays of Obligation  
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
The Precepts of the Church  
The Spiritual Works of Mercy  
The Beatitudes

**The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:**

Covenant with Abraham

**The children will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:**

The Calming of the Sea  
Passion, Death, and Resurrection  
Pentecost

**The children will recognize the following saints:**

Blessed Pope John XXIII  
Jerome  
Robert Bellarmine  
Katherine Drexel

**The children will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:**

Adonai	Holy Orders	Pentateuch
Actual grace	Holy Spirit	Pentecost
Advocate	Holy Trinity	Perjury
Ascension	Incarnation	Psalms
Beatitudes	Inspired	Reconciliation
Charism	Israelites	Resurrection
Chastity	Liturgical Year	Revelation
Chrism	Liturgy	Sacraments
Christ	Magnificat	Sacraments of Service
Church	Marks of the Church	Sacred Scripture
Communal prayer	Mass	Sacred Tradition
Conscience	Matrimony	Sacrifice
Consecrate	Messiah	Sanctifying grace
Covenant	Miracle	Scandal
Creed	Moral decision	Sexuality
Epistle	Moral virtues	Sin
Evangelist	Mortal sin	Soul
Faith	Nicene Creed	Suicide
Gospel	Paschal Mystery	Venial sin
Grace	Passover	Virtues

**In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the children will:**

Want to assist in liturgy as servers or in choir.

Pray for the RCIA candidates and make cards to welcome them into the Church community.

## **Grade Six**

1. Students will be able to describe the structure of the Bible, locate passages, and name the various literary forms in the Scriptures.
2. Students will identify the Patriarchs, Prophets, and Kings of the Old Testament and describe their contribution to the growth of our Faith.
3. Students will describe the meaning of “covenant” in human experience and the special meaning of “covenant” between God and His people.
4. Students will show appreciation for the Bible as the inspired Word of God.
5. Students will apply the teachings and lessons of Scripture to their own lives.
6. Students will identify Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament Covenant.
7. Students will be able to articulate the role of Mary in the Church.
8. Students will begin to understand the differences in the vocations.

**Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the spring of the year unless parent(s) decline.**

**Children will participate in “God’s Own Making” with parent permission.**

**The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:**

Sign of the Cross	Glory Prayer
Our Father	Guardian Angel Prayer
Hail Mary	Act of Contrition
The Apostles Creed	The Rosary and Its Mysteries
The Nicene Creed	Hail Holy Queen
Prayer to the Holy Spirit	

Children will experience prayer of meditation.

**Children should be able to recite from memory:**

The Ten Commandments	The Precepts of the Church
The Corporal Works of Mercy	The Spiritual Works of Mercy
The Holydays of Obligation	The Beatitudes
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit	The Seven Sacraments

**The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:**

Ruth and Naomi	Babylonian Exile
Baruch’s Challenge	Passover
David	



## **Grade Seven**

1. Students will express a basic understanding of Jesus, his life and teachings.
2. Students will recognize the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus as their Savior and model for moral living.
3. Students will be able to identify the parts of the Mass and explain each of them in relation to each other.
4. Students will apply knowledge of the structure and images of the Catholic Church.
5. Students will be able to identify the local ordinary and the pope.
6. Students will recognize the RCIA and its structure.
7. Students will trace the history of the Catholic Church from apostolic times through the twentieth century.

**Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the spring of the year unless parent(s) decline.**

**Students will participate in “God’s Own Making” with parent permission.**

**Students should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:**

Sign of the Cross	Glory Prayer
Our Father	Guardian Angel Prayer
Hail Mary	Act of Contrition
The Apostles Creed	The Rosary and Its Mysteries
The Nicene Creed	Hail Holy Queen
Prayer to the Holy Spirit	The Magnificat

Students will experience prayer of meditation.

Students will understand concept of adoration.

**Students should be able to recite from memory:**

The Ten Commandments	The Precepts of the Church
The Corporal Works of Mercy	The Spiritual Works of Mercy
The Holydays of Obligation	The Beatitudes
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit	The Seven Sacraments

**Students will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:**

The Calling of Elijah  
Isaiah’s Servant Songs

**Students will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:**

The Man Born Blind	The Transfiguration
The Suffering Servant	The Good Shepherd
Paul’s Missionary Efforts	

**Students will recognize the following saints:**

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta	Monica
Philip Neri	Bernard of Clairvaux
Teresa of Avila	Elizabeth Ann Seton
Thomas Aquinas	Therese of Lisieux

**Students will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:**

Abbot	Eternal	Patristic Era
Advocate	Evangelist	Redemption
Aggiornamento	Expiation	Resurrection
Analogy	Faith	Revelation
Apostolic Succession	Immaculate Conception	Suffering Servant
Ascension	Incarnation	Theologian
Attribute	Infallibility	Theophany
Beatific vision	Inspiration of the Bible	YHWH
Blasphemy	Lament	
Canon of Sacred Scripture	Last Judgment	
Catacombs	Lectio Divina	
Charisms	Magisterium	
Collegiality	Meditation	
Communion of Saints	Messiah	
Covenant	Monasticism	
Dogma	Omnipresence	
Doxology	Particular Judgment	

**In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the students will:**

Collect "Birthday Bags for Jesus" (Gift bags containing cake mix, frosting, candles, and sprinkles) at Christmas to be donated to Sts Joachim and Ann Care Service for families in need.

Congratulate newly confirmed and their families by preparing and serving a dinner in celebration.

## **Grade Eight**

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Commandments, Beatitudes, virtue, and Catholic moral teachings.
2. Students will apply knowledge of Catholic teachings to moral decision making.
3. Students will choose to commit themselves to membership in the Catholic Church especially through the sacrament of Confirmation.
4. Students will express openness to the Holy Spirit and a deeper understanding of the working of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
5. Students will share time, talent, and treasure in service to family, local parish, and greater community.
6. Students will articulate elements of and witness to their Catholic identity.
7. Students will be able to explain use of statues, icons, and other sacred images by Christians.
8. Students will have some familiarity with the Liturgy of the Hours.
9. Students will understand the importance of their lifestyle choices in vocation and career.

**Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the spring of the year unless parent(s) decline.**

**Students will participate in “God’s Own Making” with parent permission.**

**Students will work with their families and sponsors in preparation for the reception of Confirmation. This work will be visible to and supported by the entire parish.**

**The students should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:**

Sign of the Cross	Glory Prayer
Our Father	Guardian Angel Prayer
Hail Mary	Act of Contrition
The Apostles Creed	The Rosary and Its Mysteries
The Nicene Creed	Hail Holy Queen
Prayer to the Holy Spirit	The Magnificat

Students will experience prayer of meditation.

Students will understand concept of adoration.

Students will be introduced to contemplation.

**Students should be able to recite from memory:**

The Ten Commandments	The Precepts of the Church
The Corporal Works of Mercy	The Spiritual Works of Mercy
The Holydays of Obligation	The Beatitudes
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit	The Seven Sacraments
The Fruits of the Holy Spirit	

**Students will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:**

The Dedication of Solomon's Temple

**Students will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:**

Nicodemus  
The Sermon on the Mount  
The Feeding of the Multitude  
The Rich Man  
The Parable of the Sower  
Martha and Mary

**Students will recognize the following saints:**

Elizabeth of Hungary  
Ignatius of Loyola  
Peter Claver  
Leo the Great  
Thomas Aquinas

**Students will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:**

Abortion	Heresy	Sacrament
Actual grace	Holiness	Sacraments of Healing
Anointing of the Sick	Holy Orders	Sacraments of Initiation
Baptism	Icon	Sacraments of Service
Beatitudes	Idol	Sanctification
Blessed Sacrament	Justification	Sanctifying grace
Chastity	Liturgy	Scholastics
Confirmation	Matrimony	Sin
Conscience	Mendicants	Soul
Conversion	Morality	Stewardship
Decalogue	Mortal sin	Subsidiarity
Ecumenism	Natural law	Symbols
Eucharist	Paschal mystery	Venial sin
Euthanasia	Precept	Virtue
Evangelist	Reconciliation	Worship
Evangelize	Reparation	
Gentiles	Rites	
Grace	Sacramental	

**In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the students will:**

Conduct a Pro-Life Baby Shower in January near the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, collecting items for mothers in crises.

In response to the love they have been shown, students will take part in various forms of service to family, parish, and greater community.