

GRADE SEVEN

SCRIPTURE

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Bible is the word of God because it is inspired. That is, God guided the authors of Scripture to write those truths He wanted to teach in the authors' own words. (102, 105-107, 135)
2. In Sacred Scripture who God is and who we are in relation to Him.
3. That Sacred Scripture teaches without error God's saving truth. (81, 101-102)
4. About God's loving plan for our redemption is revealed through salvation history. Salvation history begins with Adam and Eve in the Old Testament. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, God prepared the human race for a Savior. God's saving plan is fulfilled in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and carried out in and through the Church today. (280, 4309-431, 436, 1080, 1103-1107)
5. That "Gospel" means "Good News." The Gospels are four true accounts of the life and teaching of Jesus. (125-127)
6. That the Gospels of Sts. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are similar, and therefore, called the synoptic gospels while the Gospel of St. John has a different, more reflective style and contains some additional stories. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the four evangelists.
7. That the Gospels are different portraits of Jesus that are all true. Even though each Gospel writer chose different stories to emphasize, all the Gospels have the same message: Jesus is the Messiah, Son of God, who revealed the Father's love for us, saved us, and opened Heaven to us. **Note to Catechist: Catechists should often refer to Jesus as God the Son. (1229, 515) All baptized boys and men are sons of God the Father by adoption. All baptized girls and women are daughters of God the Father by adoption. However, Jesus is the only begotten Son of the Father. He is God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made. Referring to Jesus as God the Son helps those being catechized to better understand that Jesus is not the highest of God's creatures, nor the greatest human person (heresy of Arianism), but that He is true God and true man, the 2nd Person of the Holy Trinity, Incarnate!**
8. That Jesus' whole life and ministry took place in the area of Palestine, also called the Holy Land, and be able to identify important sites mentioned in the Gospels, e.g. Nazareth, Galilee, Jerusalem, etc. (487-507, 525-526, 527-530, 616-617, 624-630)
9. That prayerful and attentive Scripture reading, especially of the New Testament, has the power to transform us and to assist us in the struggle to live faithful Christian lives. (131-133, 107, 115-117)

10. The basic elements of Salvation History:
 - a. The Father's love is manifested in the good of creation. (279, 287, 289, 290-295, 302-305)
 - b. We have been separated from God's plan for us because of sin. (385-389, 402-409)
 - c. Jesus is the bridge back to the Father. Jesus makes at-one-ment for us with the Father. (410-412, 422-424)
 - d. Following in the way of Jesus and participating in the sacraments he made available in the Church will lead us to heaven. (430-435, 456-460)

CREED

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God. In the one God are three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of these three Divine Persons is fully God. This mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity. (253)
2. That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us. (461, 259, 459)
3. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son to dwell within us and to help us always to choose what is good and avoid what is evil. (245, 733-736)
4. That the mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith. It is the mystery of God in Himself. The Trinity is the source of all good and it is the source of all other mysteries of faith. (249)
5. That the Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity are distinct, but not separate. (253-254)
6. That each of the three Persons of the Trinity is equal, and that each of them always was, is now, and always will be God. (255)
7. That the Incarnation is the mystery of God the Son in the Flesh. This is Jesus who always was, is now, and always will be God and who, from the moment of His conception, became man and always will be man. **Note to Catechist: Prior to the Incarnation, God the Son was strictly God, not man. From the moment of the Incarnation (which occurred at the Annunciation) and into eternity, Jesus is true God and true man.** (464, 469)
8. The four reasons for the Incarnation:
 - a. So that Jesus could save us from sin and death by reconciling us to God the Father, thereby opening heaven to us. (457)
 - b. So that we can know God's love for us. (458)
 - c. To be the supreme model of holiness for us. (459)
 - d. To make us partakers in the Divine nature. (460)
9. That the Paschal Mystery is the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. (1067)
10. That, through our Baptism, we are called and sent forth to continue Jesus' work in the world. (1267-1270)

11. That Jesus made Peter his vicar (chief representative) on earth. Peter is the head of the apostles and unifier of the Church. (552, 882)
12. That each Pope is a successor of Peter, the head of the apostles. Every bishop is a successor to one of the apostles. The pope is the head and unifier of the bishops and the Church. (882, 1461)
13. That faith can be defined both as a virtue which is a gift from God and as a personal response to God. (153, 166)
14. That faith is the God-given (theological) virtue that empowers us to believe in God and in all that He teaches because He has revealed these truths and He can neither deceive nor be deceived. (1814)
15. That at death we will be judged by the Lord according to our deeds and adherence to the Gospel. (1021-1022)
16. That all those who die in God's grace and friendship go to heaven either immediately or after a time of cleansing in purgatory. (1031)
17. That those who die in un-repented mortal sin go to hell. (1861)
18. That Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was a Virgin and remained a Virgin throughout her entire life, so that with her whole being she was the "Handmaid of the Lord." (510)
19. That the saints who died for the Faith are called martyrs (witnesses) and that they are in heaven with God and all the blessed. (2473, 2506)
20. That the Church is the People of God and the Mystical Body of Christ. Christ is the Head and we, the baptized, are the members of His Mystical Body, the Church. (781-782, 779)

HOLY MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine, and is at the center of our Catholic faith and worship. (1074, 1324, 1374, 1413)
2. That during the Penitential Rite (within the Introductory Rite at Mass) we acknowledge our sins and ask for God's mercy.
3. That the Lectionary is the official book of Scripture readings, arranged in a three-year cycle, and used during the Liturgy of the Word. (1154)
4. That, within the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we offer thanks and praise to the Father through, with, and in Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. (1358)
5. To participate actively and reverently in the celebration of the Mass through proper gestures, responses, and songs. (1348)
6. That the Mass of Christian Burial (Funeral Liturgy) celebrates the triumph of Christ over sin and death. (1684-1686)
7. That *The Mass is a sacrifice in the sense that when it takes place, Jesus Christ, through the bishop or priest celebrating the Mass, makes present sacramentally his saving, sacrificial death on the Cross by which he redeemed us from our sins.* (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA), pp. 220-21)

8. That *the Mass is a sacred banquet that culminates in Holy Communion.* (USCCA, p. 222)
9. That *Jesus instituted the Eucharist on Holy Thursday “the night when he was betrayed” (1 Corinthians 11:23), as he celebrated the Last Supper with his apostles.* (Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church # 272)
10. That, *During the celebration of the Mass, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of Jesus’ words by the priest, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, which is offered in an unbloody manner in sacrifice for us and in praise of the Father...* (USCCA Glossary - Eucharist, p. 511)
11. That **Transubstantiation** is a term used to describe the unique change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. By the consecration, the substance of bread and wine is changed into the substance of Christ’s Body and Blood. (USCCA, Glossary – Transubstantiation, p. 530)
12. That at Mass, *The assembly actively participates by prayers, hymns, psalms, responses, and an inner self-offering along with Christ to the Father...* (USCCA, Glossary – Eucharist, p. 511)
13. That, *All who are properly prepared can receive Holy Communion, by which Jesus gradually transforms the receivers into himself and which leads them to Gospel witness in the world.* (USCCA, Glossary – Eucharist, p. 511)
14. *The offering of Christ unites the members (of the Church) here on earth and those in heaven.* (USCCA, p. 221)
15. That the Mass is also offered for those who are in Purgatory that they may more quickly enter into the glory of heaven. (cf. USCCA, p. 222)
16. That anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance before he/she receives communion. (1415)
17. That we are to fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. **Note to catechist: Water and/or medicine do not break the Eucharistic fast, cf. Can. 919 of the Code of Canon Law.**
18. That human life is changed at death but not ended, and that our bodies will rise again. (1016)
19. That in the sacrament of Holy Orders, the three degrees of ordination are: deacon, priest, and bishop. (1536)
20. That the sacraments are sacred mysteries and that Jesus continues to care for us through the sacraments. **Note to Catechist: When we use the word “mystery” in the theological sense, i.e. sacred mysteries, we do not mean, by mystery, something that one cannot know anything about. Rather, we mean something one cannot know everything about. Thus, when we speak of the sacred mysteries there is a great deal that we can know about them. It is just that we can never completely “plumb the depths” of these mysteries.**
21. The names of the sacraments of initiation, healing, and service.
22. That the liturgical year begins with the First Sunday of Advent and ends with the Solemnity of Christ the King.
23. The names of the Holy Days of Obligation and their dates / times of the year.

CHRISTIAN MORALITY

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve Him and so to enter heaven. (1721)
2. That Jesus is truly God and truly man. (461)
3. That we are made in God's image and likeness, with intellect and will (two powers of the soul) and that God wants us (does not force them) to live in communion with Him. (1934)
4. That, as man, Jesus became like us in all ways but sin. (470)
5. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law.
6. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863)
7. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose it anyway. (1859)
8. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that might easily lead us to sin. (1853)
9. That sanctifying grace is how we share in God's life and it is what makes us holy. (2023-2024)
10. That we should respect others and ourselves because we are made in the image and likeness of God. (1934)
11. That good moral decision-making, which is based on God's law and the teachings of the Church, is possible with the assistance of God's grace. (2030)
12. The meaning of the theological virtues, i.e. faith, hope, charity, and the cardinal virtues i.e. prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. (1834-44)
13. That Christ's invitation to "... take up your cross and follow Me." (*Mt 16:24*) demands keeping the commandments, living the beatitudes, and offering up our sufferings in union with Jesus' sufferings on the cross. (2015)
14. That the Church has the authority, given to her by Jesus, to provide moral teaching and direction through the Magisterium. The Magisterium is the Pope and the bishops in communion with him. (2050)
15. How to examine their consciences based on the Ten Commandments. (2068)
16. That prayer, God's grace, and self-discipline help us to overcome temptation. (2340)
17. That sexuality is a gift and that its expression is reserved for a husband and wife in marriage for the purposes of having children and strengthening the bond of marital love between them. (2363)

PRAYER

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Mass is our greatest prayer and that we need to participate at Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. (1167, 2043, 2180-82)
2. The importance of weekly participation in the Sunday Mass as the foundation of Catholic life, prayer, and spirituality. (2174-83)
3. The parts of the Mass and all prayer responses, so as to be able to participate in the Mass more fully.
4. How to participate in a Eucharistic devotion, such as Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction, or a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. (1378-79)
5. That Jesus is our model for prayer. (2598-2615)
6. How trust in God is the basis for prayers of petition. (2629-31)
7. The Church's Advent tradition of waiting and longing for the coming of the Lord. (524 and Glossary of CCC)
8. The Church's Lenten traditions of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. (540, 1095, 1438, and Glossary of CCC)
9. The Beatitudes and will understand them as the pattern of the Christian way of life. (1716 and Glossary of CCC)
10. That the rosary is the epitome of the Gospel, expressing devotion to Jesus through Mary. Students will memorize the twenty mysteries of the rosary, the days on which each set of mysteries are prayed and pray at least one set of mysteries (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, Glorious) as a class. (2678, 2708, cf. 1674, Glossary of CCC)
11. To participate in different kinds of prayers and devotions, e.g. prayers to saints, Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Rosary, etc. (1674)
12. To pray for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. (2258-62)

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That we are called to imitate the loving and humble service of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (967)
2. That the Pope and bishops are the authentic teachers of the Faith. They are given authority by Christ to guard and preach the faith and to guide us in the practice of the faith. (890, 891)
3. The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and will be able to identify how they are examples of putting faith into action.
4. To identify men and women who have responded to God's call to holiness through their service to others.
5. Ways of bringing hope and love to the suffering. (e.g. showing respect and reverence for all human life from conception to natural death; care and respect for

- the disabled; visiting the sick, elderly, imprisoned, mentally and emotionally ill, etc.)
6. That it is only with the gift of Christ's grace and practice of the theological and cardinal virtues, that we become true witnesses to Christ. (1805, 1813)
 7. That we are called to live responsibly as stewards of God's creation, respecting life (especially human life), ourselves, and the environment by willingly sharing their time and God-given gifts with the school, parish, and community.
 8. That we are called to work together with others for peace and justice by cooperatively choosing and completing a safe and appropriate service project.
 9. That the Holy Eucharist is the source of living the Christian life and commits us to the poor. (1324, 1397)