

# Archdiocese of Dubuque Parish High School Curriculum

Based on:

“Adaptation of Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the  
Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age  
For use in Parish and Youth Ministry Programs”

# Summary

The Archdiocesan Office of Adolescent Faith Formation is requesting that parishes in the Archdiocese commit to covering the content of the following curriculum as a portion of their faith formation programming for adolescents in high school. This curriculum was created to implement the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) adaptation of the High School Curriculum. Parishes are not to be limited to only engaging teens in the content of the curriculum. More engagement is always better. We do ask that all parishes make a deliberate effort to engage teens in the content of the curriculum as a minimum.

The Curriculum is divided into six themes that come from the six courses of the framework. Each theme is further divided into ten objectives. These objectives do not require any specific method for accomplishment, so parishes are not limited in their approach. For example, the objectives could be accomplished in a classroom, on a retreat, in a small faith sharing group, or a pilgrimage.

Each theme of the curriculum is to be covered in a specifically assigned time frame so that all parishes/clusters/deaneries would be exploring the same objectives at the same time. This will allow for greater collaboration and also provide direction for shared programming. For example, all archdiocesan programs for high school students will focus on the assigned theme of the time. This also means that 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be exploring the same objectives as 12<sup>th</sup> graders, so parishes may need to adjust the models used for formation.

The determined time-frame for covering these objectives are as follows:

Theme #1: Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture	Fall 2014, '17, '20
Theme #2: Who is Jesus Christ	Spring 2015, '18, '21
Theme #3: Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church	Fall 2015, '18, '21
Theme #4: The Mission of Jesus Christ (Paschal Mystery)	Spring 2016, '19, '22
Theme #5: Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus	Fall 2016, '19, '22
Theme #6: Life in Christ	Spring 2017, '20, '23

Resources available to assist parishes include all textbooks/handbooks that can be found on the USCCB Conformity List (namely *The Catholic Faith Handbook* (St. Mary Press) and *Catholic Essentials* (Ave Maria Press). Additionally, some resources that are not eligible for conformity review could also be used. Namely, the Adolescent Faith Formation Office suggests *LifeTeen*, *YDisciple*, and *Youth Ministry Access* as resources for parishes to use. *The Teen Timeline* (DVD series) could be used for some of the objectives in Theme #1 and *The Theology of the Body for Teens* (DVD series) could be used for some of the objectives in Theme #6. Additionally, the archdiocese recommends lesson plans developed by *CatholicCurriculumOnline.com* for parishes to utilize in this endeavor as well.

On-going training will be available for faith formation leaders, pastors, FFCs, and catechists. The full curriculum can be found in the FFL Cat. & Evan. Conference in First Class.

## Theme #1

### The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture

Fall - 2014, 2017, 2020

Overview: This theme will focus on the following questions:

1. Who is God? How is God present in your life?
2. What is the Bible? How did it come to be? How do we use it?

Goal: Our goal is to support the participants on their journey to know God by helping them recognize who God is, appreciate the way God reveals Himself in their lives, and to help them to encounter the Living Word through a deeper understanding of the Sacred Scripture and Tradition.

Vocabulary:

Revelation, Deposit of Faith, Eternal, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Immutable, Incarnation, Covenant, Magisterium, Old Testament, New Testament, Sacred Tradition, Gospel, Canon.

Objectives:

1. Recognize the presence of God at work in our lives.
2. Know and identify God through his attributes.
3. Know the Bible as the inspired word of God.
4. Understand how God is the author of Scriptures through human writers.
5. Appreciate the Catholic perspective that God reveals Himself through Scripture and Tradition.
6. Learn that Jesus is Present in the Words of Scriptures.
7. Explore the contents of the Old and New Testaments and their connection to each other.
8. Investigate how to read/interpret Scriptures, including an awareness of the role of the Magisterium.
9. Discover the role of the Bible in the Liturgy (Mass).
10. Appreciate the importance of studying/praying with the Bible.

## Theme #2

Who is Jesus Christ?

Spring - 2015, 2018, 2021

Overview: This theme will focus on Jesus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Blessed Trinity as the ultimate revelation of God to all people. In learning about who Jesus is, the participants will also learn who He calls them to be.

Goal: To help participants recognize Jesus as the ultimate revelation of a personal, loving God who invites us to live a life of peace and joy in relationship with God and the Church.

Vocabulary:

Jesus, Christ, Faith, Nicene Creed, Gospel, Kingdom of God, Incarnation, Immaculate Conception, Epiphany, Miracle, Disciple, Holy Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

Objectives:

1. Articulate what participants know about who Jesus is coming into the course.
2. Introduce the concept of "Revelation" especially that Jesus, the Word of God is the ultimate revelation of who God is and who we are called to be.
3. Increase familiarity with the persons of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and Their attributes.
4. Explore the Incarnation: Jesus' revelation of perfect love.
5. Develop a deeper regard for Mary in our lives as a perfect model of faith and her role in the Church.
6. Become aware that our response to the Love of Jesus is faithfulness and discipleship.
7. Understand the goal of life is to know, love, and serve God, and to be happy with God forever in Heaven.
8. Articulate the Divine Revelation on death, judgment (particular and final), Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory.
9. Develop an appreciation for God's gift of Heaven, and understand the freedom to accept or reject God's love.
10. Be challenged to identify themselves as members of the Communion of Saints, who are connected with the faithful who have gone before them, who are grounded in prayer, and who are fortified by the Sacraments, so that they may become who Jesus calls them to be.

### Theme #3

#### Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church

Fall - 2015, 2018, 2021

Overview: This theme will focus on the role the Church plays in helping us all to come to know and to love Jesus, and to come to know what our responsibilities are to the Church in return.

Goal: To help the participants recognize that faith is a communal experience that is strengthened by a community of believers that we know as the Church.

#### Vocabulary:

church, Pentecost, Gentiles, St. Paul, Apostles, Apostolic Succession, St. Peter, Deposit of Faith, Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, Pope, Magisterium, Marks of the Church, Catholic, Holy, Ecumenism, Communion of Saints, Diocese, Hierarchy, Laity, Religious/consecrated life, Infallibility, Evangelization.

#### Objectives:

1. Understand the importance of belonging to communities (family, friends, school teams/organizations, countries) in order to appreciate the communal nature of the Church.
2. Recognize that the Church is a holy community established by God and endowed with the presence of the Holy Spirit.
3. Understand that the Church exists to bring God's saving love to everyone (evangelization).
4. Appreciate that the Church is founded by Christ, entrusted to people from the time of the Apostles, and guided by the Holy Spirit.
5. Develop an awareness of images of the Church, especially the Body of Christ.
6. ONE, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic: Recognize that the mission of the Church is to be the unified Body of Christ to the world and that we must rely on the Holy Spirit to unite us in our differences – The Church is One.
7. One, HOLY, Catholic and Apostolic: Understand that God works in and through the Church so that we may be more perfectly unified with God by living the life of a disciple, as modeled by the Saints – The Church is Holy.
8. One, Holy, CATHOLIC and Apostolic: Define the Church as universal in its call to bring all people into relationship with Jesus and in that it contains the most complete means of salvation – The Church is Catholic.
9. One, Holy, Catholic and APOSTOLIC: Recognize that Christ built His Church on the foundation of the Apostles who were sent to share His teachings with the world; and recognize the bishops, successors of the apostles, still teach, sanctify, and guide the church today – The Church is Apostolic.
10. Grasp that as Catholics we are sent, as the Apostles were, to live the active life of a disciple, sharing the Gospel in every part of our lives.

## Theme #4

### The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery)

Spring – 2016, 2019, 2022

Overview: This theme will focus on how by dying, Jesus destroyed our death and, how by rising, he restored our life... the paschal mystery.

Goal: Participants will learn that for all eternity God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with Him, which is accomplished through the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, to which we are called to live.

#### Vocabulary:

Paschal Mystery, Original Sin, Concupiscence, Salvation history, Natural law, Mosaic Law, Covenant, Old Testament Covenant/New Covenant, Passion, The Last Supper, Agony in the Garden, Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost,

#### Objectives:

1. Realize the inherent worth (dignity) of each human person, God's summit of all creation.
2. Understand that the broken nature of our humanity (original sin) is reflected in our choices and actions and harms our relationship with God, putting us in need of redemption.
3. Explore the covenants of the Old Testament in order to understand how God never stops loving His people.
4. Understand that God established a new and everlasting covenant with His people through His Son Jesus Christ.
5. Explore the parables to discover Christ's teaching on the meaning of sacrificial love.
6. Know Jesus as the ultimate example of love through His life, and His suffering (passion), death, resurrection, and ascension (Paschal Mystery.)
7. Connect the suffering and death of Jesus with the Passover.
8. Understand that humankind has been given the opportunity to share in eternal life through Christ's resurrection and victory over death.
9. Know Jesus as ever-living and ever-loving through the presence of His Spirit.
10. Recognize that we are fulfilling the paschal mystery by actively participating in the Sunday liturgy.

## Theme #5

### Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ

Fall - 2016, 2019, 2022

Overview: This theme will focus on helping participants understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments and especially through the Eucharist. Teens will examine each of the sacraments in detail in order to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.

Goal: To help participants develop an ability to define the Sacraments and articulate experiences of the Sacraments in their own lives, recognize that all Sacraments are experienced in the midst of community, and have the opportunity to experience God's grace through the Sacraments, specifically through Eucharist and Reconciliation.

#### Vocabulary:

Sacrament, Sign, Symbol, Liturgy, Transubstantiation, Sacraments of initiation, Sacraments of service, Sacraments of healing, Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick, Eucharist, Reconciliation, chrism, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Introductory Rites, Communion Rite, Concluding Rite, Tabernacle, Lectern, Altar, Original sin, Grace, Absolution, Catechumenate, Mystagogy, gifts of the Holy Spirit, mortal sin, venial sin, contrition, ministerial Priesthood/communal priesthood, Bishop, Priest, Deacon.

#### Objectives:

1. Recognize that Jesus Christ is ever-living and ever-present in our lives.
2. To understand that a Sacrament is a significant (privileged) encounter with Christ through His Church.
3. Become familiar with the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) and the symbols used in the Sacraments.
4. Explore the story of salvation as it relates to Christ giving Himself to the Church for our Salvation through the Eucharist.
5. Experience the symbols and rituals of the Mass through a re-enactment of the Mass with concurrent explanations throughout the experience. (practice Mass)
6. Experience Jesus in the Eucharist. (real Mass)
7. Come to know the Sacrament of Service (Holy Orders and Marriage) as ways that people commit to serving God and His Church.
8. Recognize the Sacraments are an experience of a relationship, which is exemplified by the sanctity of Marriage.
9. Become familiar with the Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick)
10. Encounter Christ's forgiveness through an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## Theme #6

### Life in Jesus Christ

Spring- 2017, 2020, 2023

Overview: This theme will focus on concepts and precepts of the Catholic perspective of morality.

Goal: To help participants develop an appreciation for the moral concepts that directs the lives of Christ's disciples, which will lead them to a life of happiness, joy, and peace.

#### Vocabulary:

Beatitude, Vocation, Morality, Mortal sin, Venial sin, Natural law, New law, Church law, Divine law, 10 Commandments, Sanctifying grace, Actual grace, Conscience, Virtue, Vice, Cardinal virtues, Theological virtues, Free will, Object/intent/circumstance.

#### Objectives:

1. Understand God's desire for us to be truly happy and joy-filled on earth while calling us to eternal life with Him.
2. Embrace the concept that all of Catholic morality is based on our call to love God with all of our heart, mind, strength, and soul (first three commandments and the first of Jesus' two great commandments).
3. Embrace the concept that all of Catholic morality is based on our call to love our neighbors as ourselves (4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> commandments and the second of Jesus' two great commandments).
4. Explore the meaning of sin, kinds of sins, and the consequence of how sinning alienates the sinner from God and others.
5. Appreciate the value of forgiveness and reconciliation which are necessary for peace and right relationship with God and others.
6. Recognize the role that forming a well-formed conscience plays in making good decisions.
7. Learn about the role of the Church in guiding behavior and values.
8. Explore how the Beatitudes are our means to happiness and joy.
9. Discover how the Sacraments and prayer provide the grace to live a moral life.
10. Reflect on the universal call to holiness and discipleship.