

Our Catholic Faith

We Believe in God

The children experience the wonder of God's creation.
The children appreciate that God created everyone and everything good.
The children realize that Jesus Christ is God's greatest gift to us.
The children understand that God the Holy Spirit is our special Helper.
The children become aware of the loving action of the Blessed Trinity in their lives.

Jesus Christ Is God's Son

To motivate the children to want to follow Jesus.
The children know that Jesus is truly the Son of God.
The children understand Jesus' Law of Love.
The children understand that Jesus is always with us.
To deepen the children's understanding of the importance of Jesus in their lives.

The Holy Spirit Is Our Helper

The children talk about and share experiences of being afraid.
The children appreciate how the Holy Spirit helped the friends of Jesus.
The children understand the meaning of Baptism.
The children understand the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
The children recall and celebrate what they have learned about the Holy Spirit.

We Belong to the Catholic Church

The children appreciate the feeling of being welcomed into a group.
To develop in the children the concept of the Church as a community.
The children understand that we are called to serve one another.
The children appreciate the Mass as our greatest prayer.
To strengthen the children in their desire to live as followers of Jesus.

We Belong to Our Parish

To guide the children toward a better appreciation of belonging to a family.
To introduce the parish as our special home in the Catholic Church.
To introduce ways in which the parish carries on Jesus' mission today.
To demonstrate ways in which our parish prays and works together.
To reinforce for the children what they have learned about the life of their parish.

Prayer

To recall experiences of communicating with those we love.
The children understand the meaning of prayer and how to pray.
To deepen the children's understanding of prayer.
The children prepare for a prayer service.
The children will experience a prayer service.

The Bible

To demonstrate our need for others to help us learn.
The children know the meaning of the Bible.
To deepen the children's understanding of the Bible.
The children prepare for a Bible prayer service.
The children will experience a Bible prayer service.

Second Grade Benchmarks

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

God Loves Us Always

The children recognize signs of love.
The children understand God's great love for them.
The children understand that Jesus showed us how to live the Law of Love.
The children are motivated to pray to the Holy Spirit when making difficult choices.
The children are motivated to love other people and treat them fairly.

We Makes Choices

The children make good choices in their lives.
To present the meaning of sin and the importance of making right choices.
The children understand and appreciate the Ten Commandments.
The children understand that Jesus shows us how to do what God wants.
The children choose ways to live the Ten Commandments.

God Forgives Us

The children understand the need to be sorry when we have done wrong.
The children understand the meaning of the sacrament of Reconciliation.
The children are taught and explained the Act of Contrition.
The children know that in the sacrament of Reconciliation we celebrate God's love and forgiveness.
The children's understanding of the meaning of Reconciliation will be deepened.

We Prepare for Reconciliation

The children understand Reconciliation in their own lives.
The children learn and use a sample examination of conscience.
The children are prepared to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation.
The children realize that as God forgives us, we must forgive others.
The children are motivated to share God's peace and forgiveness with others.

We Celebrate Reconciliation

To present Jesus' words about forgiveness and share reasons for forgiving.
The children understand the individual rite of Reconciliation.
The children understand that we can also celebrate Reconciliation with others in our parish.
The children review the essential parts of the sacrament of Reconciliation.
The children learned about Reconciliation and to celebrate forgiveness.

Advent

The children appreciate the importance of preparing for special times.
The children know that Advent is our time of special preparation for Jesus' coming.
The children think of ways they can prepare well to celebrate Christmas.
The children prepare for an Advent celebration.
The children will have an Advent prayer celebration.

Christmas

- The children know the story of Jesus' birth.
- The children understand some symbols of Jesus used at Christmas.
- The children focus more deeply on the real meaning of Christmas.
- The children prepare for a Christmas prayer service.
- The children will celebrate what they have learned about the birth of Jesus.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist

Jesus Gives Us the Mass

- The children are introduced the story of Jesus feeding the people.
- The children know that the Mass is our celebration of Jesus' Last Supper.
- The children understand Mass as a remembrance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- The children appreciate Jesus' great gift of Himself in Holy Communion.
- The children's understanding of the Mass as sacred meal and sacrifice will be deepened.

We Prepare for Eucharist

- The children appreciate the importance of thankfulness in our lives.
- The children understand that the Mass is our great thanksgiving prayer.
- The children understand how all the ministers of worship help in our celebration of Mass.
- The children realize that the Mass is our greatest prayer to God.
- The children deepen their understanding of the Mass.

The Liturgy of the Word

- The children experience the importance of listening.
- The children understand what happens at Mass in the Liturgy of the Word.
- The children understand the gospel, homily, and Creed of the Mass.
- The children understand the Prayer of the Faithful.
- The children understand what happens at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

- To explain the feelings associated with giving and receiving gifts.
- The children understand the meaning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- The children understand what happens during the Consecration of the Mass.
- The children understand the Communion of the Mass.
- The children's understanding of the Liturgy of the Eucharist will be deepened.

We Are Sent to Love and Serve

- The children understand how we can show our love for God.
- The children know that at the end of Mass we are sent forth to love and serve others.
- The children will be Jesus' peacemakers.
- The children understand that as friends of Jesus, we are called to love and serve others.
- Review and enhance what the children have learned about the Mass and Holy Communion.

Lent

- The children understand the importance of change and growth.
- The children realize that Lent is a special time before Easter.
- The children's understanding of Lent will be deepened.
- The children prepare for a Lenten prayer service.
- The children will review and celebrate a Lenten prayer service.

Easter

- The children understand the importance of springtime.
- The children realize that Easter is a time of new life in the Church.
- The children's understanding of the meaning of Easter will be deepened.
- The children prepare for the dramatization of an Easter play.
- To review what the children learned about Easter and to celebrate an Easter play.

We Celebrate the Eucharist

We Celebrate First Holy Communion

- To lead the children to appreciate the help they receive in preparing for First Holy Communion.
- To develop the children's readiness for receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.
- The children prepare themselves to be worthy of receiving Holy Communion.
- The children will be introduced to the practice of giving thanks after Communion.
- The children's understanding of how to prepare for and receive Jesus will be deepened.

We Celebrate Our Life with Jesus

- The children appreciate the presence of loved ones, even when we are separated from them.
- The children understand that Jesus is always with us.
- The children understand that Jesus is with us in the Mass in many ways.
- The children understand Jesus' presence in our lives.
- The children's understanding of the many ways Jesus is present with us today is deepened.

Jesus Christ Is with Our Community

- The children realize their need for help from others.
- The children understand how Jesus is present in His Church.
- The children know how Jesus is present in their parish.
- The children recognize that Jesus is present with us in our families.
- The children's understanding of how Jesus is present with us will be deepened.

Mary, Our Mother

- The children will be introduced to the concept of praying to Mary.
- The children understand Mary's part in God's plan for the world.
- The children understand that Mary is the mother of Jesus.
- The children know that Mary is our mother and loves each one of us.
- The children's knowledge and appreciation of why we honor Mary will be deepened.

Jesus Christ Is with Us Forever

- The children appreciate their growth during the past year.
- The children appreciate the gift of Jesus in Holy Communion.
- The children remember that Jesus is with us in many ways.
- The children remember that Jesus shows us how to love God and others.
- The children will be provided with an opportunity to express their love for Jesus.

A Reconciliation Celebration