

Junior High Church History Benchmarks

Ever Ancient, Ever New

- The students discover the value of studying Church history.
- The students explore the ways people, places, events, ideas, and buildings make up history.
- The students recognize the tools we use for studying Church history.
- The students explore the ways the Church shows it is both a human and a divine institution.
- The students recall why and with what tools we study Church history.

Centuries of Amazing Growth

- The students discover the conditions that enabled Christianity to grow.
- The students explore how Christ's followers spread the faith.
- The students understand how and why the early Christians were persecuted.
- The students discover how the Church met opposition from within.
- The students recall how the early Church spread the faith despite opposition.

Faith of an Empire

- The students discover why the year A.D. 313 was a turning point in Church history.
- The students explore the good and bad consequences of official approval for the Church.
- The students explore the ways the Church Fathers contributed to our understanding of Catholicism.
- The students explore the ways four early Church councils clarified Catholic teachings.
- The students recall the many changes in and for the Church in the fourth century.

Trials and New Beginnings

- The students appreciate how the Church survived the barbarian invasions.
- The students explore the beginnings of the monastic movement.
- The students explore how the early monks evangelized Europe.
- The students explore the establishment of a Christian empire and the causes of the Schism of 1054.
- The students recall the growth and changes in the Church during the Early Middle Ages.

A Remarkable Age of Renewal

- The students understand the need for Church reform in the High Middle Ages.
- The students explore how the Crusades failed to achieve their objectives.
- The students explore how the friars improved the Church.
- The students appreciate various expressions of faith in the High Middle Ages.
- The students recall how the Church was renewed and reformed during the High Middle Ages.

Time of Crisis and Challenge

- The students discover that the period of the Late Middle Ages was a time of trial for the Church.
- The students explore the effects that the Great Schism had on the Church.
- The students explore the impact of the Renaissance on the Church.
- The students understand the failures of Renaissance Church leadership.
- The students express the ways the Church of the Renaissance survived despite crises and challenges.

The Protestant Reformation

- The students discover the beginnings of the Protestant Reformation.
- The students explore the expansion of the Protestant Reformation.
- The students explore Calvin's influence on the Protestant Reformation.
- The students explore the causes and effects of the English Reformation.
- The students recall and understand the causes and consequences of the Protestant Reformation.

The Counter-Reformation

- The students discover the ways the Council of Trent responded to the Protestant Reformation.
- The students explore the ways the popes dealt with the Counter-Reformation.
- The students explore the ways new religious orders and saints enriched the Counter-Reformation Church.
- The students explore the reasons why the reign of Elizabeth I was the golden age of the Priesthood in England.
- The students deepen understanding of the Church of the Counter-Reformation.

Between Reformation and Revolution

- The students discover the ways in which the European monarchs threatened the Church's freedom.
- The students examine the forces that denied civil rights to Catholics.
- The students explore the spread of Catholicism throughout the world.
- The students explore the effects of the scientific revolution and the Enlightenment on the Church.
- The students recall how the Church responded to the age of kings, the scientific revolution, and the Enlightenment.

A World of Turmoil

- The students discover the background of the French Revolution and its effects in the Church.
- The students explore the causes of the French Revolution and the resulting schism in the Church.
- The students understand the consequences of the Reign of Terror.
- The students explore the relationship between the Church and Napoleon.
- The students recall and discuss the ways in which the French Revolution changed the Church and the world.

The Dawn of a New Age

- The students discover the Church's response to liberalism and nationalism.
- The students explain the Church's growth during this age of faith.
- The students understand and appreciate the nineteenth century as a missionary age.
- The students examine the ways in which Pope Pius IX and Pope Pius X changed the Church.
- The students recall the ways the Church changed and grew during the nineteenth century.

Catholicism in the United States

- The students discover the roots of Catholicism in the United States.
- The students appreciate the contributions of Catholics on the American frontier.
- The students explore the ways the Church took root in the colonies.
- The students explore the development of the Immigrant Church in America.
- The students deepen understanding and appreciation of the contributions of the Church in the United States.

The Church in Modern America

- The students discover the effects of the Civil War and immigration on the Church.
- The students explore what it meant to be Catholic and American in the late 1800s.
- The students explore the growth of the Church in America during the early 1900s.
- The students examine the crisis affecting the Church in the 1960s and 1970s.
- The students understand and appreciate the growth of the Church in America.

The Twentieth Century and Beyond

- The students discover the church's role prior to World War II.
- The students explore the effects on the Church of World War II and its aftermath.
- The students examine the growth of the Church in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- The students explore the significance of Vatican II.
- The students reflect on the Church in the twentieth century.

A Story in Art

- The students discover the story of the Church as it is reflected in architecture.
- The students explore Church architecture from the Gothic to the contemporary.
- The students explore the contributions of the Renaissance, the Baroque period, and the twentieth century to religious art.
- The students experience and appreciate Gregorian chant and the origins of religious drama.
- The students review and enjoy the Church's story in art, music, and drama.