

## LEVEL ONE: GOD'S GIFTS OF LOVE

MESSAGE (Knowledge of the Faith)	WORSHIP (Liturgy)	CHRISTIAN MORALITY	COMMUNITY (Service)
<p><b>1. God is Creator of all.</b> God's creation is good. He created everything because He loves us. He wants us to care for creation.</p> <p><b>2. God made every person out of love.</b> Each one is unique and special. Each one is loved by God, and has unique abilities and talents.</p> <p><b>3. God wants people to love one another.</b> Because God made each person, we must respect and love all people.</p> <p><b>4. God wants my happiness.</b> We belong to God's family. He gave us the capacity to think, to love, to learn, to choose, to share... so that I can grow up to be the best person I can be.</p> <p><b>5. We show respect for God's gifts.</b> We respect God's gift of life by caring for ourselves. We show our gratitude for the precious gift of life. We have the responsibility to stay well and to protect ourselves from people and things that might harm us.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prayer:</b> Sign of the Cross.</li> <li>• <b>Prayer:</b> Doxology (Glory be...). God in three Persons. Draw (or construct) a three-leaf clover as symbol.</li> <li>• Pray Psalm 139. "Thank you God that I am so wonderfully made."</li> <li>• Use art medium to express God's many gifts in our lives.</li> <li>• <b>Prayer:</b> to our Guardian Angel <i>O Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom His love commits me here. Ever this day, be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 Commandments: good rules to live by. The first three show our love and respect for God.</li> <li>• Respect and gratitude for all of creation by taking care of what God has given us and not wasting.</li> <li>• Discuss ways in which we show that we appreciate the gift of our lives and take care of ourselves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a nature collage and discuss how God made all things. Post the collage in Church.</li> <li>• Have children make a family collage to show how each member of their families is unique</li> <li>• Do a clean-up activity at the Parish.</li> <li>• Encourage recycling.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>6. God shows His love for me.</b> I know God loves me through persons who care for me: parents, guardians, brothers, sisters, relatives, friends, neighbors...</p> <p><b>7. The Church is God's family.</b> We become members of the Catholic Church family through Baptism.</p> <p><b>8. In a family, there is love.</b> In our families and in God's family, the Church, there are special kinds of feelings for different people. Adults sometimes feel a special kind of love for each other. When they feel this love, they get married and may have babies together. Before a baby is born, he/she has a special home called the womb inside his/her mother.</p> <p><b>9. Jesus is God's Greatest Gift.</b> The Bible tells the story of Jesus: - He belonged to a family: Mary and Joseph. - He had relatives: Anne, Joachim, Elizabeth, John.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to silent prayer: Talking to God about what we feel and think. Thank God for our feelings: joy, peace, - even sadness, because sadness sometimes show how deeply we can love.</li> <li>• Pray for our families.</li> <li>• <b>Prayer:</b> Hail Mary. Attention words:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- grace (God's life)</li> <li>- fruit of your womb (child)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 Commandments: good rules to live by. 4th, 5th, and 6th commandments help us to live love in our families.</li> <li>• We show our gratitude to God for the gift of our families by the virtues of obedience, by telling the truth, by sharing and being responsible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a cultural fair. Have children bring in something that represents their cultural heritage.</li> <li>• Write "Thank You" cards to persons who care for us (parents, parish priests, guardians, teachers)</li> <li>• Have children bring in pictures of their Baptism, and discuss their feelings on seeing these photos.</li> <li>• Make and send cards to a relative far away.</li> <li>• Volunteer to help a family member without being asked.</li> <li>• Make one-decade Rosary bracelets and give as gifts.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>10. Jesus is a special sign of God's love.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He shows us how to love.</li> <li>- He was non-violent.</li> <li>- By being obedient to Mary and Joseph, He shows us that it is important to obey good rules.</li> <li>- Jesus is a friend to all persons. He had a special love for the poor and the hurting.</li> <li>- He teaches us that love stretches to include everyone. All people on earth are God's family.</li> </ul> <p><b>11. Mass: the celebration of our Catholic Church family.</b></p> <p>At Mass, we remember and celebrate the good things God has done for us through Jesus.</p> <p><b>12. We celebrate the Liturgical Year.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advent: Mary's "Yes".</li> <li>- Christmas: God gives us His Son.</li> <li>- January 1: Mary, Mother of God.</li> <li>- Lent: Jesus' "Yes".</li> <li>- Good Friday: Jesus' "Yes".</li> <li>- Easter: Jesus lives forever.</li> <li>- Ascension/Pentecost: Jesus shares His Spirit with us.</li> <li>- Nov 1: We celebrate the lives of all holy people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prayer:</b> Our Father. Attention words:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- trespasses (wrongdoing)</li> <li>- temptation (something that may be attractive, but leads us to do wrong)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Mass focus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the Gospel, we remember Jesus' life and teachings.</li> <li>- Eucharistic Prayer: We remember Jesus' last supper.</li> <li>- Memorial Acclamation: We remember Jesus' death and Resurrection.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Attend a Mass together as a class, and discuss respectful behaviour.</li> <li>• Construct an Advent Wreath for the class. Read about the symbols of the Jesse tree, and compare it with a family tree.</li> <li>• <b>Prayers</b> as a family:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Blessing Before Meals</li> <li>- Blessing After Meals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recount the life of a saint, and how they lived like Jesus did.</li> <li>• Take a tour of the Church.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 Commandments: Rules to live by. 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th commandments show that we respect others as God's children.</li> <li>• Be truthful.</li> <li>• Be grateful, and not jealous.</li> <li>• Be happy with what you have.</li> <li>• Think of others who are less fortunate (solidarity).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve children in collecting school supplies for poor children.</li> <li>• Invite someone to speak about children who live in poor and difficult situations.</li> <li>• Have children prepare Easter messages ("God loves you.") for children who live at a local foster home.</li> </ul>