

LEVEL SEVEN: THE GOSPELS

MESSAGE (Knowledge of the Faith)	WORSHIP (Liturgy)	CHRISTIAN MORALITY	COMMUNITY (Service)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He prayed: in solitude, with His disciples, and before every important decision. • Jesus the Messiah. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As the Messiah, Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises, the answer to the peoples' need for salvation. - As Saviour, He is God.with-us, who comes among us, suffers with us, dies with us, and teaches us that death is not the end. - Jesus proclaims the "Good News": the Kingdom of God, as the urgent and definitive intervention of God in history. He teaches that the Kingdom of God, while not yet supreme on earth, is with us here (mystery). • Jesus' friends and followers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human beings (because they are created in God's image) are in their deepest nature relational. This is the basis of Jesus' friendships (with both men and women): the Trinity (the complete sharing of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). - Jesus taught about relationships in the Sermon on the Mount. - He commands us to love one another as He has loved us. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trace elements of the Catholic tradition back to their Jewish heritage (Eucharistic meal/ seder meal...) • Review the Liturgical Year: Ordinary Time, Advent/ Christmas Seasons, solemnities and feasts. • Organize a Holy Hour of Adoration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read together Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount. Discuss how contemporary society makes it difficult to follow these teachings. • Look at Jesus' relationships with persons. Discuss and compare how He lived relationships and how the world portrays relationships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify an attitude of Christ, and commit to exemplify this action in daily life. • Coordinate with the parish Hospitality Ministry to organize an afternoon tea for elderly or retired parishioners. • Go Christmas caroling at the hospital. • Make and write Christmas cards to prisoners.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus, through His actions, showed that everyone was welcome in the Kingdom. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God's saving love is for all people, without exclusion or discrimination. - Jesus healed Jews and Gentiles, physically and spiritually. - He ate with sinners. He fed the multitudes. - He sent His disciples to minister. • Jesus spoke with the authority of God's Kingdom. He taught that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To follow Him is to do God's will, to love everyone unconditionally, to forgive unconditionally, to obey the Law of God. - Doing the will of God should be the focal point of our lives, the test applied during decision-making. - His law of love requires emotional maturity in thought and action, recognizing our emotions and responding appropriately, exercising responsibility, respect and self-control. - Prayerful conscience formation and prudent action vs. the slavery of instant gratification and the manipulation of others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Liturgical Year: Lent/Easter/Pentecost, reflecting on the Paschal Mystery. • Have students encourage their families to participate in the Penitential Services during Advent or Lent. • Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Ask a priest to come and hear confessions during class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how examples of instant gratification and manipulation of others can be a form of slavery. Then discuss how conscience formation and prudent action can lead one to freedom. • Create a fable based on a moral teaching Christ. • Discuss: What does it mean to love unconditionally? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a class, take an active role in the Parish's Easter Triduum. • Contact a refugee centre and organize a collection of school supplies for refugee children. • Make a collage of people suffering in the world today.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus, the Lord. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Paschal Mystery is Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. It is the centre of the Good News. It saved and redeemed the human race. - Jesus' death was in harmony with His entire life, for in all things, Jesus freely embraced the will of His Father. - Jesus' resurrection is the greatest of all signs of God's presence in the world. - Jesus' appearances to His disciples dispelled their fears and transformed them into missionaries. - Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with His disciples until the end of time. - The Paschal Mystery in our lives: God transforms sorrow, evil, and death into joy, goodness and eternal life. • Jesus, the Way. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus is the primary sacrament, the visible sign of God's loving care. - The Church, established by Jesus, is the sign and symbol of Jesus' continuing presence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray the Stations of the Cross as a class. • Write your own Stations of the Cross, and invite the parish to participate. • Take an active part in the Easter Triduum this year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Think of a time when the Paschal Mystery was reflected in your life. • Discussion: What does it mean to be a missionary? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask help from a priest to contact parishioners who are sick. Deliver "care packages", messages of hope and comfort, or offer to bring them groceries. • Bringing Christ's presence in the world means serving others. Brainstorm on ways that your class can serve in the parish and in the local community. • S a class, write a short article on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Contact the bulletin editor to have the article printed in the Sunday bulletin. • Gather material and write cards of encouragement to send to a missionary. • Organise one Sunday to lead the opening prayer in the other catechism classes. Symbolic of how the disciples were sent in pairs to proclaim the Good News, have students go to the classrooms in pairs.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church is the People of God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Church makes Scriptures and Sacraments visible, convincing signs of Christ's continuing activity. - As part of the Church, the Body of Christ, each of us is a sign of Christ's presence. • The sacraments visible in our lives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Baptism, we become part of Christ's body and receive the call to serve others. - The Eucharist feeds us, heals us, strengthens us for the service of others. The Celebration of the Eucharist, the Mass, is the heart and centre of Catholic life, and is a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet. - Through Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, we are healed and forgiven, and our consciences are strengthened. - In Confirmation, we celebrate the Spirit who is with us to bring the complete truth and sustain us in moments of difficulty. - Through Marriage and Ordination, we are called to specific service. Both paths reveal God's love for His people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are "sacramentals"? They are religious articles and art which inspire Christian attitudes. Many images come from Scripture. • What are "saints"? The holy men and women who have followed Jesus throughout their lives, and today are role models in discipleship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask a married couple to speak on the Church's teachings about the Sacrament of Marriage. • Ask a medical doctor to come and speak about the Church's teachings on the protection of life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have students share cultural pictures, statues, icons, prints, crucifixes, prayer cards, or religious art works that depict Jesus. (Encourage the sharing of the students' cultures.) Name the message or mood these objects communicate. •