

LEVEL EIGHT: CHURCH HISTORY

MESSAGE (Knowledge of the Faith)	WORSHIP (Liturgy)	CHRISTIAN MORALITY	COMMUNITY (Service)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Creed is a summary of our faith. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our Catholic identity is summarized in the Creed. - Our shared beliefs are made manifest in our shared commitment to the mission of the Church. - The Nicene Creed contains the truths of our faith: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first part of the Creed summarizes what God has revealed to us about Himself: God is One and Three persons. The Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. • The second part professes our beliefs about God and His actions in history. • Divine Revelation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The search for God is part of being human. - The story of the Catholic Church begins in the Old Testament and continues in the New Testament writings. • What we believe about God: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God is one. - God is almighty. - God is Maker of all that is seen and unseen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do a comparative study of the different creeds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Apostles Creed (or the Roman Creed) - the Athanasian Creed, and - the Nicene Creed (recited at Mass). • Memorize the Nicene Creed said at Mass. • Research the origin of the Ash Wednesday rite. • Review the meaning of the Doxology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus calls us to <u>maturity</u> and <u>discipleship</u>. Maturity is the quality of behaving mentally and emotionally like an adult. Discipleship is believing the ideals and principles of someone and trying to live the way that person did. • An adolescent being called to discipleship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - grows in her/his knowledge of God; - grows in her/his understanding and knowledge of self; - trusts in Jesus' friendship and presence; - prays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write your own version of the Creed, expressing our religious beliefs in words that are easier to understand.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God is Father. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He created everything. • The first human beings chose to misuse their freedom to disobey God. • God promised them salvation just the same. - God is Son. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is both God and human (Mystery of the Incarnation). • He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. • He lived on earth as one of us. • His passion, death, and resurrection (Paschal Mystery) is the Mystery of Redemption. - God the Holy Spirit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Holy Spirit anointed Jesus. • He empowered Jesus. • He guided Jesus • He is present in our lives today. • What we believe about Mary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mary was chosen and prepared beforehand by God (Immaculate Conception). God preserved her from original sin, and Tradition teaches that Mary remained sinless throughout her life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer: the Stations of the Cross • Find out the origin of the feast of the Holy Trinity. • Prayer: to the Holy Spirit <i>Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.</i> <i>Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.</i> <i>O God, who instructs the hearts of your faithful by the light of your Spirit, grant by that same Spirit that I might have right judgment in all things and always rejoice in your consolation. Amen.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic moral teaching is based upon the sanctity and dignity of all human life and that we, as beings created in the image and likeness of God, are designed for so much more than what the world offers. • Preserving life and the natural order are the primary principles that guide Catholic moral teaching. • God is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. Everything we do should reflect that. • As someone with a special role in Church history, Mary's intercession is important to us. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in the parish Stations of the Cross. • As a class, plan a Mass on the Sunday of the Holy Trinity. • During the month of May, pray the Rosary as a class. • During the month of May, plan to lead the parish in praying the Rosary.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She is "blessed among women", and is honored as a special saint in the Church. - Assumption of Mary. Tradition teaches that Mary was taken, body and soul, to heaven at the end of her life. • What we believe about the Church. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Church is the continuation of Jesus' presence among us. - Images of the Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body of Christ • People of God • Community of Disciples • Bride of Christ • Sheepfold • Herald of God's Word • Servant • Pilgrim People • Vine and Branches. - Marks of the Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One: unity without uniformity (ex: Eastern Rite). Unity where all share the one Spirit. • Holy: filled with God's presence. It is holy with the holiness of Jesus. • Catholic: possessing the whole of Jesus' teachings and open to the whole of humanity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer: the Angelus. • Prayer: the Rosary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The family is the place where we grow physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually so that we continue to mature. • When spiritual needs are met, we grow in discipleship and begin to discern God's call to a vocation in life. • Within the family and the Church, rules and guidelines give direction and purpose to life. Both family and Church serve as a moral compass. • As Christians, we are called to recognize Christ in every person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get to know your parish and the various groups within it. • Commit for a year as an altar server, lector, usher, greeter or choir member. • Wrote thank you notes - to one another and to persons in the Church family - affirming the positive gifts (talents, virtues) they possess.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostolic: spreading the Word of God to all; led and guided by the successors of Peter and the other apostles. • History of the Church. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(100AD) Birth of the Church.</u> Jesus began His public ministry. He died and was resurrected. Pentecost transformed the disciples. Saul was converted and renamed "Paul". First Gentiles were baptized by Peter. The Council of Jerusalem decided that Jewish law was not essential for Christians. Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple. - <u>(100-500AD) Christianity and the Roman Empire.</u> Roman law made Christianity illegal till 312AD. Apostles' Creed was formulated. The New Testament took shape. Many Christians died in major persecutions. With the Edict of Milan, Christianity became legal, and Constantine declared Christianity the official religion of the empire. Council of Nicea wrote the Nicene Creed. Jerome translated the Bible into Latin. Leo the Great became Pope. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a timeline of the Church's history, adding on each week as the lessons unfold. • Make a timeline of the St. Peter's successors up to Pope Francis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic moral virtues are based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Natural Law</u>, which is the original moral sense that is present in everyone's heart and soul, and shows us the way to use our reason to do good and avoid evil. - <u>the Old Law</u>, which is summed up in the Ten Commandments. - <u>the Law of the Gospel</u>, expressed particularly in the Beatitudes, Jesus' plan for lasting happiness. It summarizes the interior law of charity, love of God, self, and neighbour. - <u>Church Teaching.</u> Through the Church Fathers, theologians, and the Magisterium (the teaching authority of the Church), we are guided about current moral issues. • Religious persecution is part of the Church's history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write letters to Pope Francis. • Learn about some of the martyrs of the early Church. Prepare an exhibition of "Martyrs of the Early Church" and display it in Church. • Watch the movie "For Greater Glory" and learn about some more modern martyrs of the faith (Blessed Jose Sanchez del Rio, Bishop Oscar Romero). • Discussion: Do you think some Christians are still persecuted today? Where? How? Why?

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<p>- (500-1000AD) Light in the "Dark Ages". The "Rule of Benedict" was issued. Monasteries became centre of prayer and learning. Gregory the Great was elected Pope. Muhammad founded Islam. Pepin gave the Papal States in Italy. Cluny monastery became the centre for reform. Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne as Holy Roman Emperor.</p> <p>- (1000-1500AD) Late Middle Ages. Formal split between the eastern and western churches occurred in 1054, because God's presence was shown through artists, scholars, and theologians. Papal elections were entrusted to the college of cardinals. First Crusade was launched by Pope Urban II. Second Crusade failed. Third Crusade made little progress. Gothic cathedrals rise, and universities were established. Guilds were established and grew. Francis of Assisi wrote the Franciscan Rule. Dominic de Guzman founded the Dominicans. Thomas Aquinas wrote his Summa Theologiae. Hundred Years'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer: of St. Francis of Assisi <i>Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.</i> <i>O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.</i> Visit a Christian church of the eastern rite. Research: What are some of the differences and similarities between the eastern and western churches with regard to the liturgy? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion: Is there such a thing as a "holy war"? The Church's history evidence the fact that human beings have the gift of free will, which enables them to make good moral decisions (conforming to the rules of right conduct). Compile a list of "I need" and "I want". Compare the importance of those things listed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List daily moral decisions that students make. Invite a priest from the Dominican Order to speak to the class. Organise a day to help serve at the Soup Kitchen in Geneva.

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<p>War ended. Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press. The Bible was the first large book printed. Columbus reached the new World.</p> <p>- <u>(1500-1800AD) Reformation and Renewal</u>. Michelangelo painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses, and the Protestant Reformation began. Henry VIII declared himself head of the Church of England. Ignatius of Loyola founded the Jesuits. The Council of Trent opened to unify Christians and reaffirm Catholic teachings. Puritans fled religious persecution in England. Missionaries began to travel to foreign lands to spread Christianity. Congregation for the propagation of the Faith was created by the Vatican. John Baptist de la Salle founded the Christian Brothers. French Revolution began.</p> <p>- <u>(1800-present) the Church in the Modern World</u>. Napoleon united France and crowned himself as emperor. Marx published his Communist Manifesto. Vatican Council I took place. Pope Leo XII</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask a priest to come and speak about the differences between the Catholic faith and the Protestant faith (the Eucharist and Mary). • Plan a Holy Hour of Adoration and Benediction for the class. • Prayer: the Divine Praises (prayed during Benediction). • Visit the Reformation Wall, and find out the differences and similarities between Protestant and Catholic liturgies/ churches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss: How do we make a good moral decision? • Moral maturity develops in us as we grow in our ability to know and respect ourselves and others. As adolescents, changeable emotions can positively or negatively affect moral decisions. • With God's help, and by practicing the virtues (obedience, patience, hope, chastity), emotional energy can be channeled into positive behavior and good moral decisions. Practice of the virtues is particularly for adolescents who often deal with emotions of anger, sadness, boredom, depression, and sexual attraction. • Prayer is also an important aid in forming our conscience. Prayer helps us to discern both the positive and negative influences of family, friends, and the media. • Discuss real life issues, and debate proper moral responses vs. Cultural "messages". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask a priest to come and speak about the differences between the Catholic faith and the Protestant faith (the Eucharist and Mary). • Prepare notes of encouragement and care packages for youth in the local juvenile prison. •

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<p>issued <i>Rerum Novarum</i>, promoting social justice and workers' rights. World War I began. Pope Benedict XV called for peace, emptying the Vatican treasury to aid refugees. Pope Pius XI condemned the errors of communism. Hitler became chancellor of Germany. Catholic Worker Movement began. World War II began. Pope John XXIII called for ecumenical council. Vatican Council II opened. Pope Paul VI delivered message of peace to the United Nations. John Paul II elected Pope. New Catechism of the Catholic Church was published. Pope Benedict elected after the death of John Paul II. After Pope Benedict's retirement, Pope Francis was elected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vatican Council II bears a theme of reconciliation. Among other outcomes, the Council allowed for Catholics to pray with other Christian denominations, encouraged friendship with other non-Christian faiths, and opened the door for languages besides Latin to be used during Mass. Other new positions concerned education, the media and divine revelation. Most prominently, the Council highlighted the Church's willingness to engage with the contemporary world. • Find out which documents were issued at Vatican Council II. • Find out about St. John XXIII's role in Vatican II, and share your findings with the parish on his feastday, October 11. • Have a brief meditation on Ephesians 4:1-6 (unity and maturity in the Church). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society and the Gospel message are often in conflict. Discuss why the following oppose the Gospel message of respect for all life: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - abortion - capital punishment - euthanasia - murder - suicide - unjust war - drug and alcohol abuse • Practices of nations, businesses, and individuals that harm the environment are often fueled by greed, and result in social inequalities, poverty, unemployment, all of which are offenses against the dignity of all persons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite someone from the <i>Laudato Si Community</i> to speak about Pope Francis' encyclical to the class. • Commit to gathering waste after Sunday Masses, and bringing recyclable materials to the proper disposal sites. • Work on the parish garden. • Organise an afternoon tea for the elderly parishioners. • Collect school supplies for a mission. • Collect food or clothing for the local refugee centre. • Organise a bake sale for refugees.