

St. Alphonus Religious Education Program

Grades 1-6 Core Content Objectives

Since this program employs a spiral form of catechesis that builds upon knowledge within the four pillars of the Catholic faith from one year to the next in an age-appropriate manner, we have developed content objectives for each grade. It is our goal that students meet the objectives for their grade so they can continue to expand their knowledge and understanding of their faith in the next grade-level.

	Creed	Worship & Sacraments	Morality	Prayer
Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify God as loving parent. To recognize how Jesus, our families and the Church teach us about God. To identify Jesus as the Son of God who became one of us. To recognize that Jesus showed his love for us by his death and Resurrection. To identify Jesus, Mary and Joseph as the Holy Family and our family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify Baptism as the celebration of becoming part of God's family, the Church. To recognize that in the Mass, Jesus gives himself to us in the bread and wine. To identify what the sacraments are and how they help us. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To illustrate how Mary put her trust in God, and how we show our faith in God by what we say and do. To describe the ways Jesus used stories to teach us how to live. To identify what sin is. To identify the Commandments as God's rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify different ways to pray. To explain that God always hears our prayers. To recite the <i>Sign of the Cross</i>, the <i>Glory Be</i>, the <i>Hail Mary</i>, and the <i>Our Father</i>. To explain what prayer is.
Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recognize the Holy Trinity. To identify Jesus as God's son who became one of us to save us. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify what happens in Reconciliation. To recognize the parts of the Mass. To list why Catholics celebrate and worship together. To relate that at Baptism we are welcomed into God's church, and in the Eucharist we are welcomed to the table of Jesus. To recognize the special church seasons. To describe how we recognize Jesus at the Mass. To identify the sacraments as signs of God's love. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recognize that the Great Commandment tells us to love God and others. To identify what a conscience is and the ability we have to use the gift of our conscience, the Holy Spirit, and prayer to make good choices. To illustrate the basic concept of sin (mortal and venial). To recognize that sin hurts our relationship with God and each other. To describe what happens when we ask for forgiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recite the Prayer of Sorrow. To demonstrate that prayer is a time to talk and listen to God. To illustrate why we pray the <i>Our Father</i>.
Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recognize that God makes himself known to us through the Bible and community. To define Trinity. To identify the Paschal Mystery. To explain what a saint is. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify the seasons of the liturgical year and how they help us keep our faith alive. To illustrate how sacraments help us live as followers of Jesus. To identify faith as a gift that helps us trust that God is always with us. To define the sacrament of matrimony. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recognize that God sent Jesus to us to show us how to love and serve others. To identify the 10 Commandments. To explain what the 1st - 4th Commandments teach us. To describe how Mary is a model of faith for us. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explain how and why we pray. To explore how and why we pray creeds. To recite the Apostles' Creed. To identify what is a psalm. To recite the <i>Hail Mary</i>.
Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To define faith as both an invitation from God to believe and trust in him, and our response to that invitation. To differentiate the Nicene Creed vs. the Apostles' Creed. To explain how the Bible is God's word for us. To list the main divisions of the Bible: OT, NT, 4 Gospels, Epistles. To recognize God's plan for salvation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To define Liturgy as the work of worshipping God and celebrating the Word and the Eucharist. To explain how sacraments, as special celebrations given to us by Jesus, make his saving work present to us, and make us sharers in his life and work. To identify the sacraments of initiation, healing, and service of communion. To explain why Christians celebrate Pentecost. To describe what we celebrate in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify Jesus' teaching about happiness in the gospels as the Beatitudes. To describe sin as freely choosing to go against God's will. To explain what the 5th - 10th Commandments teach us. To illustrate how the Holy Spirit helps us in our lives. To illustrate how our conscience helps us make good choices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explain how prayer strengthens our friendship with God. To recite the <i>Our Father</i> and explain what Jesus teaches us in this prayer. To recite the Nicene Creed. To list the four kinds of prayer and describe the three ways to express them.
Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss the meaning of the Resurrection and Ascension. To list examples of the work of the Holy Spirit. To explain how God reveals Himself. To demonstrate how the church is the Body of Christ. To illustrate how we live our faith in Paschal Mystery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To name the season in which we prepare for Christmas. To identify the most important season of the Church Year. To explain why we celebrate the Eucharist and Holy Orders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explain what the Beatitudes tell us about happiness. To describe what we need to do to form good conscience. To explain the four moral virtues. To explain what it means to be holy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify why it's important to pray to the Holy Spirit. To describe what it means to love God. To explain why we pray to Mary. To recite the rosary.
Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explain the Church's beliefs about Jesus Christ. To explain how we access God's word within us. To explain how God communicated Self through the Bible. To describe how God's promises in the OT are fulfilled in Jesus. To explain why the death and resurrection of Jesus is so important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To list and explain sacramental signs and symbols. To explain why we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word. To explain how the church uses the liturgical calendar. To demonstrate ways we thank and praise God in Liturgy. To demonstrate how the Eucharist strengthens our faith. To describe the spiritual effects of Reconciliation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To demonstrate ways you can live a life of holiness. To explain where you can find guidance for making moral decisions. To demonstrate how Catholics form their consciences. To list and discuss the 10 Commandments (demonstrate the importance of the Commandments to your own life). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explain what prayer is. To explain some practical ways to pray throughout the day. To explain how Christians meditate. To explain the meaning of the <i>Our Father</i>.