

Eighth Grade Syllabus

The Church

""Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1:17

Classes Meet at Faith Formation Center 6:30 - 7:45 PM (unless otherwise noted)

Date and Location	Assignment to Read <u>with</u> your child prior to class	Concepts Presented and Family Pages to Discuss and Do <u>with</u> Your Child
September 26 Parish Community Center(PCC)	5:45 PM KICKOFF! Family and Parish Faith Night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pizza 5:45 PM - Hospitality Hall • Family / Parish Event + Meet and Greet / Rally
October 3	<i>A New Year - Pg 1-8</i> Chapter 1: In God's Image	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God made humans in his image and likeness so we could be in relationship with him • With a soul, reason, and free will, humans can set their priority and direction in life toward friendship with God. Jesus is the model for living out this relationship. • Through the accounts of creation and the establishment of the covenant, we learn that God is faithful to all humans, even when they sin. • Natural and revealed helps us live out the covenant and grow closer to God. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 1 with your child
October 10	Chapter 2: Faith and Tradition Chapter 3: The Church is Holy <i>Trinity/Liturgical Colors Pg 304</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's revelation is contained in his written word of Scripture and in the Sacred Tradition of the Church passed down from Jesus, entrusted to the Apostles; and safeguarded by them and their successors, the bishops. Together, they make us one source of Divine Revelation • Faith is both a gift from God and a free human choice and action. It is an individual act and an act of the Church; the faith of the Church nourishes and strengthens the faith of each of us. • The three Theological Virtues help us to believe in God, trust in his plan for us, and love him as he loves us. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapters 2 & 3 with your child • God created humans to share in his glory, to be holy, and to be joined fully with him. • Angels have been present since creation and throughout the history of salvation, They are spiritual beings that praise God and serve him as messengers to help People understand God's plan or to keep them safe from harm. • As the perfect and complete revelation of God, Jesus shows God's holiness. It is in the Church that Christ fulfills and reveals his own mystery as the purpose of God's plan. • The Church is the Body of Christ and a sign of the holiness of God. She helps us grow in holiness, especially through prayer and worship.
October 17	NO CLASS (MEA)	No homework. Enjoy your break

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October 24	Chapter 4: The Trinity Made Known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus' Transfiguration revealed his Divine glory as the Son of God, and shows us God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. • The Church is part of God's plan for all people to come to know him, love him, and glorify him. • The Holy Spirit is alive and active in the Church, uniting her and guiding her and each of us to help further God's work on Earth. Grace is the free, loving gift of God's own life, which he offers to us, his adopted sons and daughters. • Our prayer reflects the way we understand and know God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 4 with your child
October 31	NO CLASS	All Hallow's Eve Be sure to come to Mass tomorrow for The Feast of All Saints - a Holy Day
Nov. 1 Thursday	All Saints Day <i>Holy Day of Obligation - See you at Mass</i>	Instituted as a Feast Day to honor all Saints - known and unknown
November 3	Gift Expo Youth Needed!	This event is a fundraiser for youth activities sponsored by the parish, especially the Catholic Heart Mission Trip Youth volunteers and a youth presence is a great asset to this event.
November 7	Chapter 5: We Are Christ's People Chapter 6: Temple of the Holy Spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God invites everyone to be part of his family, the Church. All Church members have an important relationship with God. • We belong to the People of God through Baptism and belief in Christ, which matures as we grow, learn, and experience more. • The Church exists to spread the good News of Jesus Christ. God uses each members gifts and talents in the Church to help others come to know and love him. • Through Baptism, each of us shares in Christ's mission as priest, prophet and king. We offer our lives and prayer to God, show others the Good News through our words and actions, and serve others with joy as we lead them to Christ. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapters 5 & 6 with your child • As temples of the Holy Spirit, we need to take care of our souls like we take care of our bodies. • Baptism and Confirmation strengthen us to be witnesses for Christ. • The Gifts of the Holy spirit help us to live as faithful disciples. Opening our hearts to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will help us grow into mature faith. • The Church is both a visible structured organization and the Mystical Body of Christ, in which the Holy spirit lives uniting the Church, guiding her and each of us, giving life.

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November 14	Chapter 7: Encountering Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus met many people in different circumstances. He welcomed them, urged them to believe, and encouraged them to change their lives. • As the Apostles' friendship with Jesus deepened, so did their understanding of who he was and what he taught them. • After Jesus Ascension and then Pentecost, the Early Christians gained the courage to witness to others. • The first members of the Church demonstrated Christian friendship in how they worshipped together, followed Jesus' example, and cared for each other • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 7 with your child
November 21	NO CLASS (Happy Thanksgiving!)	No homework. Many Blessings to you and your family this Thanksgiving
November 28	Chapter 8: Life in Christ Immaculate Conception Church Year - Advent - Walk in the Light pgs 15-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus is the Light of the World, who offers eternal life to those who accept God's grace and follow Jesus, our model of holiness in faith. • Justification is the of forgiveness of sins and the return to the goodness for which humans were created. • Baptism offers us a share in the Divine Life, to live in "right" relationship with God because of the sacrifice of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. We respond to the life that Jesus offers by doing what is right. • Conversion is a continual turning away from sin and the things that keep us from growing in God's love. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is an experience of conversion. • Mary, the Mother of God is the Immaculate Conception, created without sin, graced to be the Mother of our Savior, Jesus. We celebrate this special feast, December 8 • Advent begins as a time to prepare our hearts • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 8 with your child
December 2	First Sunday of Advent Light the first candle on your Advent wreath	During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Word who brought light into darkness. It is a particularly fitting time to welcome the light of God's forgiveness into the dark places of our sinful lives by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Excerpted from How to Celebrate Christmas as a Catholic , copyright © 2005, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc
December 5 (PCC)	Advent Family Event (First Week of Advent)	Celebrating Advent
December 8	Feasts of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Holy Day , see you at Mass!	This feast celebrates that Mary received the benefits of Christ's salvation from the very moment of her conception. In 1854 Pius IX issued the infallible statement: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race was preserved free from all stain of original sin."
December 9	Second Sunday of Advent Light the first and second candle on your Advent wreath.	How are you preparing your heart for Jesus?

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December 12	(Second Week of Advent) Chapter 9: One in Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church is apostolic because her teaching authority comes directly from Jesus and his Apostles to the bishops of the Church who are their direct successors. • Roman Catholics and Eastern Catholics celebrate some Rites in different ways, but they are united by a common Creed, the Seven Sacraments, and the Pope's leadership • The Church of Christ subsists in the Catholic Church, Catholics pray, hope, and work toward unity among all Christian (ecclesial) communities. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 9 with your child
December 16	<p style="text-align: center;">Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Light the first, second & third candle on your Advent wreath.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The pink candle represents JOY the Joy we receive at the birth of Jesus!</p>
December 19	Chapter 10: The Church is Apostolic Church Year - Christmas <i>Glory to God</i> pgs. 23-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred Tradition is the teaching handed on to us from Jesus and his Apostles. It is one source of the Word of God. • The Apostles and their successors were empowered by Jesus to act in his name. Apostolic Succession is the authority to lead and teach the Church that can be traced through the centuries from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops. • The Church continues to teach the truth of Christ through the Magisterium - the Pope, and bishops in union with him, guided by the Holy Spirit • The Nicene Creed and Apostles' Creed contain the foundational truths of our faith that express our oneness of belief. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 10 with your child
December 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent	<p style="text-align: center;">Light the last Advent Candle (<i>all four are now lit</i>) <i>We look forward to the birth of Our Lord, Jesus!</i></p>
December 25	Merry Christmas! (Holy Day of Obligation) The Nativity of the Lord	<p style="text-align: center;">Celebrates the Birth of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the World PRAISE GOD JESUS IS BORN!!</p>
December 26	CHRISTMAS BREAK	NO CLASS
January 1	<p style="text-align: center;">New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary "mother of God" is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace." This solemnity, falling on New Year's Day, is also designated the World Day of Peace (David Bennett 8/15/2008 . Church Year. Net) • one of the oldest feasts of the Church, it was changed to this date following Vatican II, by Pope Paul VI in 1974
January 2	NO CLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CATECHIST APPRECIATION

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<p>January 9</p> <p>Welcome Back!</p>	<p>Chapter 11: The Church is Catholic Chapter 12: The Christian Faith</p> <p style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px;">Living Faith - <i>Catholic Social Justice teaching</i> Call to Community - 292-293,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The missionary mandate of the Church is that salvation can only come through faith in Christ and his Church. • Every baptized Catholic is called to share in the missionary work of the Church and to be evangelists, to spread Christ's message of salvation to people who have not yet come to know and believe in Jesus. • The Church is catholic, or universal, for she proclaims the fullness of God's truth to everyone, everywhere throughout time, welcoming people of all cultures and ages. • The Church proclaims the teaching of Christ by respectfully adapting to the culture while never compromising the truth. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapters 11 & 12 with your child • All baptized Catholics are called to share in Jesus' mission as priest, prophet, and king to serve the mission of the Church. • All lay people are called to be "like leaven" in the world. Lay people support the life of the parish community and the parish's mission to serve others in Christ's name. • The Evangelical counsels are chastity, poverty, and obedience. Those in consecrated religious life take vows to live the evangelical counsels and serve an important role in the Church's mission.
<p>January 16</p>	<p>Chapter 13: Honoring God</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God made a covenant with his Chosen People, the Israelites. The Ten commandments are the laws of that covenant. These laws still hold true today. • The First Commandment calls us to put God first in our lives. Attitudes and behaviors that are not in accord with the First Commandment can lead us away from God. • Faith, hope, and charity are the Theological Virtues. Idolatry keeps us from experiencing true faith, hope and charity. • The Second Commandment states that God's Name is holy and we should always refer to his name with respect and reverence • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 13 with your child
<p>January 23</p>	<p>Chapter 14: Honoring the Family Chapter 15: The Dignity of All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fourth Commandment calls us to honor our parents. • The love, honor, and respect found in the Holy Family is a model for our own families • Within the family, we develop personal character, grow in our understanding of right and wrong, and learn what's truly important. • We have a moral obligation to form and follow a well-formed conscience to help us in judging what is right or wrong. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapters 14 & 15 with your child • The common good is the Christian principle that all people, either in groups or as individuals, are given opportunities to reach the fullness of their God-given humanity. • The Church works to make sure that public and political authority acts with truth, justice, freedom, and solidarity. • The New Commandment not only guides our personal lives but that of organizations and nations. Solidarity compels us to work for the rights of others • Our individual actions to promote Catholic Social Teaching, peace and love begin

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		close to home.
January 30	Protecting Youth and Children <i>Created in the Image of God</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandated course focusing on helping children to make good and safe choices and knowing how to get help when needed • Children are reminded that they and all of God's children are created in His image and need to see themselves and others as special, and deserving of respect, in all parts of their lives.
February 6 Coon Rapids	Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)	<p style="color: green;">Bus \$10.00/ to the Anoka - Feed My Starving Children, we are looking for help with parent supervision</p>
February 13	Chapter 16: Worship and Grace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The signs , symbols, and rituals of the liturgy form us in prayer, communicate God's gift of life, and show us the deeper meanings of the mystery. • Even outside the Mass, we show adoration and veneration for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. • Our spiritual life - God's grace in us, the celebration of the liturgy, and or participation in the Seven Sacraments-strengthen our moral life-how we live my Jesus' example, his teachings, and the Precepts of the Church • The Third Commandment required the people of the Old Law to observe the Sabbath. As Catholics we observe the Lord's Day on Sunday. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 16 with your child
February 20	Chapter 17: Faithful Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sacrament of Matrimony strengthens a couple to live out their promises to be true and faithful and open to the gift of children. • Living out the marriage covenant requires the couple to follow the Sixth and Ninth Commandments • Holy Orders is the Sacrament in which a baptized man is ordained to teach the faithful, lead divine worship, and govern the Church • All people are called to the virtues of modesty and chastity. The grace of the Eucharist and Reconciliation can strengthen all of us in our own desire to be pure and self-respecting. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 17 with your child
February 27	Chapter 18: The Liturgical Year Lent Pgs. 29-34 We Worship page 312 <i>The Seven Sacraments</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery through a yearly cycle of seasons and feasts with different needs, hopes, and relationships with God and others. • The Eucharist is at the heart of what it means to be Catholic. Participation in Sunday Mass and our own regular personal prayer helps us to live the of Christ. • In the liturgy, the three Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity are present and active in our worship. We are transformed by the liturgy to become more like Christ. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 18 with your child

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March 6	ASH WEDNESDAY Family Faith Night <i>at the Parish Center</i>	No homework; this is the beginning of Lent prepare your hearts by attending Ash Wednesday Liturgy
March 13	SPRING BREAK (Centennial)	No Class / No homework
March 20	Chapter 19: The Communion of Saints Catholic Fair Prep - determine theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communion of Saints is everyone who believes in and follows Jesus: Church members here on Earth, souls being purified in Purgatory, and the blessed already in Heaven • We pray during every Mass for those who have died. We show our communion with all Church members when we support one another through prayer and sacrifice. • Sacramentals are holy objects, prayers, and practices that help us respond to God's grace and bring us closer to him. • Religious art, especially icons, help Catholics honor the Saints and glorify God. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 19 with your child
March 27	Chapter 20 : Examples for Living Triduum-Holy Week Pg. 35-38 Catholic Fair Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary lived a life of faithful obedience to God. She said "yes" to God and became the Mother of his Son and of all those who believe in him. • The Catholic Church teaches that, at the end of her life, Mary, body and soul, was "taken up" (assumed) into Heaven. • The Church honors Mary as the preeminent member of the Communion of Saints and honors her with many feast days and devotions. • Saints are role models for us. We are all called to be Saints and to accept God's friendship, which leads us to a life of service. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 20 with your child
April 3	Chapter 21: From Age to Age Easter-Holy, Holy, Holy 39-44 Divine Mercy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church grew from a persecuted, illegal religion to the religion of the Roman Empire. Many Saints and Popes promoted freedom of religion and helped believers keep their faith despite political and social situations. • Within the Catholic Church, there may be diversity in ministry but we have a unity of mission • The Council of Trent worked to make Church teachings clearer and to reform perceived abuses. • The Church continues to address the needs of the poor and the oppressed. The documents and decisions from the Second Vatican Council invite all the members of the Church to give a Catholic response to the challenges we face in the modern world. • Read and do Family Pages for Chapter 21 with your child
April 10	Catholic Fair Prep	Confirmation and Eighth grade students are responsible to help man game booths - Sign up for booth and shifts tonight!

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April 14	Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9), when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent. In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. . . Again at the end of the Bible, people from every nation raise palm branches to honor Jesus (Revelation 7:9). http://www.catholic.org/clife/lent/palmsunday.php
April 17	NO CLASS – HOLY WEEK HAPPY EASTER See you in Church!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare your hearts to celebrate the holiest time of the year by going to Holy Week Masses and Services: <i>Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday</i>
April 18 - 20 The Triduum	Holy Thursday Good Friday Holy Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Triduum Institution of the ordained Priesthood, and the Eucharist Passion and Death of Jesus Easter Vigil - the Church begins to Celebrate the Light of the Resurrection
April 21	EASTER - Blessings to your family and friends during this Easter season!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and the Easter celebration continues for the next 50 days
Apr. 24 PCC	CATHOLIC FAIR - Family Event Hope you have a blessed and joyful summer!	<p style="text-align: center;">Make sure you're prepared for your Catholic Fair booth; An evening of fun and activities God Bless You! Have a great evening!</p>