

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL OVERVIEW OF RELIGION CURRICULUM (*Christ Our Life*, Loyola Press)

Middle School students learn about their faith through class discussions as well as participation in community service projects, and leading liturgical and para-liturgical celebrations. The seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching are infused in the curriculum, and students engage in Social Emotional Learning focused on challenges specific to middle school experiences. Catechesis is aligned to the Religion Standards set forth by the Diocese of San Diego and centered on six core tasks.

GRADE 6 - God Calls a People: This is a time of significant cognitive growth, marked by the continuing development of abstract thought. Sixth graders are capable of relating messages from Scripture to their own life experiences, and are capable of understanding God, community, and faith in a deeper way.

Knowledge of Faith:	Locate and describe themes in the OT books: Pentateuch, Historic, Wisdom, and Prophets Identify the Three Persons of the Trinity; describe how Jesus fulfills the promises of the OT
Liturgical Education:	Connect Lamb of God themes from the Passover story, the Last Supper, & the Eucharist Understand liturgical year as a call to repentance, reflection, & conversion, expressed in OT
Moral Education:	Locate Old Testament passages demonstrating the mercy of God Identify how the prophets called people to live with God given rights and responsibilities
Teaching to Pray:	Identify how prayer is a covenant relationship with God Know, Explain, and Pray the Glorious Mysteries
Educating for the Life of the Church:	Identify roles of OT leaders and associate them with the roles of the Hierarchy/Magisterium Identify priest, prophet, and king leaders in the OT and associate them with lay ministers
The Church's Missionary Life:	Explore how Old Testament prophets resisted and then responded to God's call Locate Old Testament people who worked for justice and the common good

GRADE 7 - Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life: Seventh grade is a time of profound and rapid growth, when young people are entering a stage of more mature behavior. Students are capable of logical and abstract thinking based on concrete examples, and they begin making decisions that have serious moral consequences.

Knowledge of Faith:	Understand and explain the structure and organization of the New Testament Trace and compare the stories of Jesus' life, death, & Resurrection in the Synoptic Gospels
Liturgical Education:	Recognize and give examples of how the Sacraments are rooted in the New Testament Find evidence of anointing and healing in the New Testament
Moral Education:	Cite NT examples of sin & forgiveness; explain how turning away from God affects lives Define/find scriptural examples of Cardinal & Theological Virtues modeled by Jesus in NT
Teaching to Pray:	Make connections between the 7 Petitions in the Our Father w/ other passages from the NT Know, Explain, and Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries
Educating for the Life of the Church:	Locate the Epistles and explain NT passages that describe the gifts given in the Early Church Identify how Jesus was Priest, Prophet, and King in the New Testament
The Church's Missionary Life:	Identify people in the NT who both resisted and answered God's calling to discipleship Identify Islam as a religion that shares the Jewish & Christian belief in one God, monotheism

GRADE 8 - The Church Then and Now: Eighth grade students can deal increasingly with abstraction and need to explore, reflect, and find meaning in new experiences. At the same time they find comfort in familiar rituals. They need an atmosphere of encouragement, humor, respect, & trust with understanding of their inconsistent behavior.

Knowledge of Faith:	Describe the connection between Scripture and Tradition: both make up the Word of God Demonstrate an understanding of Salvation History
Liturgical Education:	Explain the concept of Transubstantiation Articulate how the Sacraments strengthen their relationships with God & their community
Moral Education:	Make connections between the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments Understand and explain the Ten Commandments as the moral law that was given to Israel
Teaching to Pray:	Explain how we use the prayers of the saints to help us pray Participate in the Liturgy of the Hours, identify Lectio Divina, & pray using the Examen
Educating for the Life of the Church:	Know basic Church history: Early Church, Ecumenical Councils, Paul's missionary journeys Identify the differences between the ministries of Peter and Paul
The Church's Missionary Life:	Explain why Christians pray and work for Christian unity, and respect people of all faiths Recognize we are each called to deepen our faith and go forth to proclaim the Gospel