

## **Creed**

### **Content Standard**

Students in the Diocese of Marquette will understand the teachings of the Catholic Faith which God has revealed to us through Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture. They will understand “the essential and fundamental contents of Catholic doctrine, as regards both faith and morals, in the light of the Second Vatican Council and the whole of the Church’s Tradition.” (11) Students will demonstrate knowledge of the articles of faith that have been handed on to them in the Creed.

### **Rationale**

The Church in her doctrine, life, and worship perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she is and all that she believes. (DV 8) There is an organic connection between our spiritual life and the dogmas. Dogmas are lights along the path of faith; they illuminate it and make it secure. (89) “‘Faith seeks understanding’ [so that] a more penetrating knowledge will in turn call forth a greater faith, increasingly set afire by love.” (158)

*He decreed statutes from Jacob and established the law in Israel which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. (Ps 78:5-6)*

*True doctrine was in his mouth, and no dishonesty was found upon his lips; he walked with me in integrity and uprightness, and turned many away from evil. (Mal 2:6)*

### **Performance Standards — Creed**

1. Students will have learned that there is one God in three Divine Persons and that these three Divine Persons are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (266)
2. Students will know the Triune God is omnipotent, unconditionally loving, and has the fullness of all perfection. (268)
3. Students will recognize God the Father as the creator of everything seen and unseen. (286, 290-291)
4. Students will understand that God created humans in his image in order to know, love, and serve him (358).
5. Students will recognize Jesus as the Second Divine Person, conceived by the Holy Spirit, made incarnate, and born of the Virgin Mary, for the redemption of mankind. (423)
6. Students will understand that the Paschal Mystery is the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. It accomplished God’s saving plan for mankind and is at the center of the “Good News” all Christians are to proclaim to the world. (571)
7. Students will recognize the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, who is sent by the Father and the Son for our sanctification and to guide the Church. (687)
8. Students will understand that the Holy Catholic Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, which includes the Communion of Saints. (957)
9. Students will understand that we believe that just as Christ is truly risen from the dead and lives forever, so after death the righteous will also live forever and will be raised up on the last day. (989)

## Creed Objectives — Kindergarten

By the end of Kindergarten, students will have learned:

1. That one way we can know that God is the creator is through the beauty and order of nature. (47)
2. That we can experience God's love through the love of others such as family and friends.
3. That God loves us more than anyone else can love us. (318-321)
4. That all good things are gifts from God. (299)
5. That there is one God. (200)
6. That there are three Persons in the one God. (253)
7. That God the Father is the First Person of the Holy Trinity. (270)
8. That God the Son is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. (262)
9. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. (245)
10. That Jesus Christ is God the Son in human flesh. (458)
11. That Mary is Jesus' mother, and that Joseph is Jesus' foster-father. (437, 495)
12. That we love and honor Mary in a special way because she is the mother of Jesus, and he made her our mother too. (509, 963)
13. That Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Savior. (525)
14. That Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. (1169)

### Expressions of Faith:

- Sharing with their family their understanding of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- Talking about everything being a creation of God.
- Talking about Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the Holy Family.
- Talking about Christmas as the birthday of Jesus, and talking about Easter as the resurrection of Jesus (his rising from the dead).

### Vocabulary Words:

Christmas	God the Father	God the Son	Trinity
Easter	God the Holy Spirit		

## Creed Objectives — Grade One

By the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God. (200-202)
2. That nobody made God. (213)
3. That God always was, is now, and always will be. (212-213)
4. That God made heaven and earth. (325)
5. That God is the creator of all things. (292)
6. That there are three Persons in the one God – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (253)
7. That God the Son became man and that his name is Jesus. (464)
8. That Jesus is God the Son, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. (469)
9. That Jesus is fully God and fully man. (469)

10. That Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose to life again on Easter Sunday. (1169)
11. That Jesus showed us how to live. (459)
12. That the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity and is the gift of God's love. (685)
13. That Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ. (525)
14. That Mary is the Mother of God the Son, Jesus. (509)
15. That Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are the Holy Family. (Tradition)
16. That St. Ann and St. Joachim are the parents of Mary, the grandparents of Jesus. (Tradition)
17. That Mary is our mother, too. (963)
18. That the Church is the family of God. (1655)
19. That Advent is the time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas (the Birth of Jesus). (524)
20. That Lent, the 40 days before Easter (the Resurrection of Jesus), is a time for prayer. (540)
21. That each person has a guardian angel assigned by God to protect him/her. (336)
22. That the saints in heaven are real human beings who lived holy lives. (1477)
23. That the saints' response to God's call provides a model for us to follow as we live our lives. (941, 2030) **Note to Catechist: Use this point as a way to begin to introduce the concept of vocation. Vocation is the call of Christ to all the baptized to follow him in a particular way of life. (897, 941)**
24. That the saints can help us and that we should ask them to pray for us. (956)

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking about God; that he has always existed and that there are three persons in one God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
- Sharing and explaining with family and friends that Christmas is about celebrating Jesus' birthday.
- Talking about how Jesus died for our sins, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven.
- Talking about the family of God and how we are all included in God's family.
- Talking about angels as spiritual beings, and that each person has a guardian angel.
- Talking and singing about Mary as Jesus' mother and how she is our Mother, too.

Vocabulary Words:

priest	Spirit	St. Ann	St. Joachim
soul			

**Creed Objectives — Grade Two**

By the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. This is the Holy Trinity. (253)
2. That the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, became man while remaining God. (464)
3. That God the Holy Spirit lives in those who are in God's grace. (736)
4. That we need the Holy Spirit's help to do good and to avoid evil. (736)

5. That the death and resurrection of Jesus is the source of the forgiveness of our sins and of our salvation. (654)
6. That God wants everyone to be happy with him forever in heaven. Heaven is where we have everlasting joy and happiness with God, our Blessed Mother Mary, the holy angels, and all the saints. (1023, 1053, 1831) **Note to Catechist: Explain that the saints include all the human beings who are with God in heaven. Some of these are canonized saints, but most of the saints are not canonized. However, they are still saints. (1024, 1721)**
7. That the holy angels are powerful beings who are pure spirits and who give glory to God without ceasing and serve as his messengers. (329-331)
8. That each person has a guardian angel assigned by God to protect him/her. (336)
9. That Satan and the other fallen angels are in hell. We call the fallen angels devils or demons. Satan and the other devils try to tempt us to do evil. God does not want any human being to go to hell. (391–395, 1037) **Note to Catechist: When using the term “hell” in referring to the place where the devil and the fallen angels live, the children need to know it is not bad language.**
10. That Mary is the model for all Christians because she is the Mother of Jesus and because she always did God’s will with faith and trust. (494) **Note to Catechist: Whenever teaching about the Saints, the Blessed Mother, or Biblical heroes, point out that they responded to God’s call (vocation).**

Expressions of Faith:

- Sharing with family members about God as Father of everyone and creator of all things.
- Illustrating the three persons of the Trinity using drama, art, music, technology, etc.
- Talking about how God invites us into his heavenly kingdom and that the Holy Spirit (God’s love) will help us do good and avoid evil.
- Talking about angels as spiritual beings and that each person has a guardian angel.
- Talking and singing about Mary as Jesus’ Mother and how she is our Mother, too.

Vocabulary Words:

Apostles' Creed	faith	heaven	salvation
Blessed Mother	grace	hell	

**Creed Objectives — Grade Three**

By the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That God always loves us and is always faithful to us. (342)
2. That all people are made very good as God made them in his image and likeness. (356-361, 374)
3. The mystery of the Holy Trinity—one God in Three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (253)
4. That the Holy Spirit guides the Catholic Church. (737–741)
5. That the marks of the Church founded by Jesus Christ are: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. (811)
6. That the events of the Paschal Mystery are the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension

- of Jesus. (571, 1067)
7. That heaven, hell, and purgatory exist. **Note to Catechist: Heaven is everlasting joy, happiness, and glory with God. Hell is everlasting suffering, the primary pain of which is separation from God. Purgatory is a state after death in which holy souls (those who have died in a state of grace but are not yet perfectly purified) are made free from the effects of sin so as to enter heaven. It is important that the students understand that, since all of those who are in purgatory died in the state of sanctifying grace, they will all be in heaven one day. (1023-1037)**
  8. That Mary is the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. (509, 963)

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking about God as creator of all things, including all people.
- Sharing with family members that God is their heavenly Father, that he established rules to live by, and that he loves each person unconditionally.
- Sharing with family members that Mary is our spiritual mother and, because she is Jesus' Mother, she is Mother of the Church.
- Forgiving others for any injury received; trying not to hurt or offend others.
- Talking correctly about heaven, hell, and purgatory.

Vocabulary Words:

Catholic	Mother of God	Mystery	Purgatory
divine	Mother of the Church	Protestant	
marks			

**Creed Objectives — Grade Four**

By the end of 4<sup>th</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That God, who is all good, is the one and only creator and, therefore, all creation is good. (290–292, 299)
2. That there is one God. In the one God are three Divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity. (253)
3. That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us. (259, 459, 461)
4. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son to dwell within us and to help us always choose good and avoid evil. (245, 263, 2847)
5. That human beings are a unity of body and soul and that we are made in the image of God. Because we are made in God's image, we have the ability to reason (to think, judge, and understand), to make choices, and to love. (362-368) **Note to Catechist: It is important that you don't give the student the impression that we are a soul trapped in a body. This is clearly explained in the catechism citations listed above. Please read.**
6. That the two main powers of the soul are: intellect, by which we think, judge, and understand and will, by which we freely choose good or evil. (1705–1706)

7. That temptation is a struggle for everyone, but God’s grace is always present to help us choose good. (654)
8. That evil entered the world through the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. We call this original sin. (407-409)
9. That Mary was conceived without original sin. This is called the Immaculate Conception. From the first moment of her conception in her mother’s womb, Mary was free from sin and full of grace. (490-492)
10. That Mary never sinned throughout her life. She is the Church’s perfect example of faith, hope, and love of God and love of neighbor. (493- 494)
11. That the Assumption celebrates Mary being taken up by God to heaven, body and soul, when the course of her earthly life was completed. (966, 974) **Note to Catechist: The Church doesn’t officially teach whether or not Mary died.**
12. That the Church was instituted (begun) by Jesus Christ, and he appointed St. Peter to be its visible head. The Bishop of Rome (the pope) is the successor of St. Peter. (763-766, 815-816) **Note to Catechist: When visiting St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette, notice the mural at the back of the sanctuary, which depicts Jesus handing Peter the keys to the Kingdom and establishing the Church. The Latin saying is the Scripture passage Mt 16:16-20. This can be found on the St. Peter website under the “Tour” section. <<http://www.stpetercathedral.org/TH/tour/tour.htm>>**
13. That we are members of the universal Church, of the diocese, and of our own parish. Students should know the name of the pope, the diocesan bishop, the pastor of their parish, and the first bishop of our diocese, Bishop Frederic Baraga. (See Appendix 3 on the bishops of our diocese.) **Note to Catechist: Being sensitive to your parish realities, you may also want the children to know the names of associate pastors, deacons, pastoral coordinators, pastoral associates, and retired priests serving your parish.**
14. That the Communion of Saints is made up of all of the baptized persons on earth, all of the saints in heaven, and all of those in purgatory. (954-959)
15. That all the tenets of our faith are found in the Apostles’ Creed. (194, 196)

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking about God as creator of all things, including all people.
- Recognizing Jesus as fully man and fully God.
- Talking about the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Trinity, who is our Advocate and will help us even if we sin.
- Sharing with family members their understanding that the Church is all of the Christian faithful (not the building) known as the Body of Christ, with Jesus as the head.
- Describing faith as something they believe to be true even though they can not see it or prove it.
- Talking about Mary and the saints.

Vocabulary Words:

bishop	deacon	pope	Vatican
cardinal	Immaculate Conception	reason	will
Creed	intellect	religious	

## Creed Objectives — Grade Five

By the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God and in him three divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of the three Persons is fully God. (249, 253)
2. That the mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity, which is the root of the Church's living faith. (249, 253)
3. That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us. (259, 459, 461)
4. That Jesus is the Messiah long awaited by the Israelites as the Redeemer of God's people. (436-439)
5. That Jesus, true God and true man, was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. (484-486)
6. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son to dwell within us and help us always to choose what is good and avoid what is evil. (245, 733-736)
7. That we respect and care for our bodies because they are temples of the Holy Spirit. (1004, 2519)
8. That on Pentecost the Holy Spirit descended upon the Virgin Mary, the Apostles, and the other disciples gathered in the Upper Room. On this day (Pentecost), the Church began its saving mission in the world, which is why Pentecost Sunday is often called the "birthday of the Church." (726, 731, 1076, cf. Acts 2:1-4)
9. That Mary is venerated under many titles. (1370) **Note to Catechist: Under the title of the Immaculate Conception, she is honored as patroness of the United States of America. Under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, she is honored as patroness of the Americas and as patroness of unborn babies.**
10. That God created us to know, to love, and to serve him, and so to come to paradise. (1721)
11. That by knowing, loving, and serving God we answer his call and fulfill our vocation according to our own state in life. (358, 1700)
12. That we believe in the Communion of Saints. (946-948, 953, 960, 962) **Note to Catechist: The people who have died and are in heaven, in purgatory awaiting heaven, and the baptized on earth make up the Communion of Saints.**
13. That Jesus instituted the Church and appointed St. Peter to be its visible head. The Bishop of Rome (the pope) is the successor of St. Peter. (815-816) **Note to Catechist: When visiting St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette, notice the mural at the back of the sanctuary which depicts Jesus handing Peter the keys to the Kingdom and establishing the Church. The Latin phrase is from the scripture passage Mt 16:16-20. This can be found on the St. Peter website under the "Tour" section.**  
<<http://www.stpetercathedral.org/TH/tour/tour.htm>>
14. That the bishops are successors of the apostles. Every Catholic diocese is led by a bishop who is in communion (union) with the pope. (877)
15. That we are members of the universal Church, of the diocese, and of our own parish. Students should know the name of the pope, the diocesan bishop, the pastor of their parish, and the first bishop of our diocese, Bishop Frederic Baraga. (See Appendix 3—Bishops of the Diocese of Marquette.) **Note to Catechist: Being sensitive to your parish realities,**

**you may also want the children to know the names of associate pastors, deacons, pastoral coordinators, pastoral associates, and retired priests serving your parish.**

Expressions of Faith:

- Sharing with family their understanding of one God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Recognizing their unity with saints by praying properly to Mary and their favorite saints as intercessors.
- Showing respect for their bodies and the bodies of others by not fighting and not taking drugs or alcohol.
- Reciting from memory the Apostles' Creed.

Vocabulary Words:

apostolic succession	paradise	Redeemer	venerate
Communion of Saints	patron saint	Temple	Virgin Mary
diocese			

**Creed Objectives — Grade Six**

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God. In the one God are three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Divine Person is fully God. This mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity. (253)
2. That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us. (259, 459, 461)
3. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son, to dwell within us and help us always choose good and avoid evil. (245, 733-736)
4. That the mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith. It is the mystery of God himself. The Trinity is the source of all that is good and is the source of all other mysteries of faith. (249)
5. That God sent his Son Jesus as our Savior because of his great love for us. (458)
6. That faith is a gift from God, strengthened through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our souls. (153)
7. That we must strive to overcome evil throughout our lives. (407-409)
8. That Jesus is God in the flesh. We call this mystery of God in the flesh the Incarnation. (464)
9. That God has been faithful to us throughout history, even when we have been unfaithful. (2567)
10. That the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed are summary statements of our central beliefs as Christians. (185-197) **Note to Catechist: The Apostles' Creed is a faithful summary of the apostles' faith. (194) The Nicene Creed stems from the first two ecumenical councils at Nicea in the years 325 & 381 A.D. It is common to all the great Churches of the East and West. (195)**
11. That our Christian heritage has its roots in the Old Testament. (128-130)
12. That Mary is the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. (509, 963)



13. That the great figures of the Old Testament are models of holiness and fidelity, e.g., Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Moses, Esther, and David. (147) **Note to Catechist: Whenever teaching about the Saints, the Blessed Mother, or Biblical heroes, point out that they responded to God’s call (vocation).**

Expressions of Faith:

- Sharing with family their understanding of one God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Confirming to family and peers that every human being, from the moment of conception, is created by God.
- Accepting Jesus as Savior, sent by the Father because of God’s great love for us.
- Talking about faith as a free gift from God, and talking about having a free will to accept or reject God’s great gift.
- Showing respect for their bodies and the bodies of others by not fighting, not taking drugs or alcohol, proper nutrition and exercise, promoting the idea that they are a temple of the Holy Spirit.
- Reciting the Nicene Creed aloud at Mass with the assembly.

Vocabulary Words:

Incarnation	Marquette	Nicene Creed	rectory
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**Creed Objectives — Grade Seven**

By the end of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God. In the one God are three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of these three Divine Persons is fully God. This mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity. (253)
2. That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us. (259, 459, 461)
3. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son to dwell within us and to help us always choose good and avoid evil. (245, 733-736)
4. That the mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith. It is the mystery of God himself. The Trinity is the source of all good, and it is the source of all other mysteries of faith. (249)
5. That the Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity are distinct but not separate. (253, 254)
6. That each of the three Persons of the Trinity is equal, and that each of them always was, is now, and always will be eternal God. (255)
7. That the Incarnation is the mystery of God the Son in the flesh. This is Jesus who always was, is now, and always will be eternal God and who, from the moment of his conception, became man and always will be man. (464) **Note to Catechist: Prior to the Incarnation, God the Son was solely God, not man. From the moment of the Incarnation (which occurred at the Annunciation) and into eternity, Jesus is true God and true man. (464, 469)**
8. That there are four reasons for the Incarnation. The Word became flesh:
  - a. In order to save us from sin and death by reconciling us to God the Father, thereby

- opening heaven to us. (457)
- b. In order that we might know God's love for us. (458)
  - c. In order that we would have a model of holiness. (459)
  - d. In order to make us partakers in the Divine nature. (460)
9. That the events of the Paschal Mystery are the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. (571, 1067)
  10. That through our Baptism we are called and sent forth to continue Jesus' work in the world. (1267-1270)
  11. That Jesus made Peter his vicar (chief representative) on earth. Peter is the head of the apostles and unifier of the Church. (552, 882)
  12. That each pope is a successor of Peter, the head of the apostles. Every bishop is a successor to the apostles. The pope is the head and unifier of the bishops and the Church. (882, 1461)
  13. That faith can be defined both as a virtue, which is a gift from God, and as a personal response to God. (153, 166)
  14. That faith is the God-given (theological) virtue that empowers us to believe in God and in all that he teaches. He has revealed these truths, and he can neither deceive nor be deceived. (1814) **Note to Catechist: By the virtue of faith, we believe the truths of faith because God has revealed it, not because we understand it.**
  15. That at death we will be judged by the Lord according to our deeds and our adherence to the gospel. This is called the particular judgment. (1021-1022)
  16. That all those who die in God's grace and friendship go to heaven, either immediately after death or after a time of cleansing in purgatory. (1031)
  17. That those who die in un-repented mortal sin go to hell. (1861)
  18. That Mary, the mother of Jesus who is God, was a virgin and remained a virgin throughout her entire life, so that with her whole being she was the "Handmaid of the Lord." (510)
  19. That the saints who died for the faith are called martyrs (witnesses), and that they are in heaven with God and all the blessed. (2473, 2506)
  20. That the Church is the People of God and the Mystical Body of Christ. Christ is the Head, and we, the baptized, are the members of his Mystical Body, the Church. (779, 781-782)
  21. That all the baptized have a particular vocation which support the mission of the Mystical Body of Christ, to spread the Kingdom of Christ over all the earth. (863, 873) **Note to Catechist: This speaks to the universal call (vocation) of the baptized to holiness. (1533, 2813) See Appendix 9 on Vocations.**
  22. That the particular vocations of the baptized include ordained ministry, married life, consecrated life, and single life. (871-873) **Note to Catechist: See Appendix 9 on Vocations.**

#### Expressions of Faith:

- Sharing with family their understanding of the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Talking about Jesus' Incarnation (becoming present in a human body) and why he did so.
- Discussing the Paschal Mystery: the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus.
- Showing respect for their bodies and the bodies of others by not fighting and not taking drugs or alcohol, proper nutrition and exercise, promoting the idea that they are a temple of the Holy Spirit.
- Reciting the Nicene Creed at Mass.

Vocabulary Words:

holiness	holy	martyr	Vicar
			particular judgment

**Creed Objectives — Grade Eight**

By the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God. In the one God are three divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of the three Persons is fully God. This mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity. (253)
2. That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us. (259, 459, 461)
3. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son to dwell within us and help us always choose good and avoid evil. (245, 733–736)
4. That the mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith. It is the mystery of God himself. The Trinity is the source of all that is good and of all of the other mysteries of faith. (249)
5. That the three persons of the Holy Trinity are distinct yet equal. (253-255)
6. That the Incarnation is the mystery of God the Son in the flesh. This is Jesus who always was, is now, and always will be eternal God, and who, from the moment of his conception, became man and always will be man. (464)
7. That the Ascension is the entry of Jesus’ humanity into divine glory in God’s heavenly domain, forty days after his resurrection. (659-665; 989)
8. That Catholic beliefs and practices are rooted in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. (80-82)
9. That we can know the truth of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition by following the guidance of the Magisterium—the pope and the bishops in communion (union) with him. The Magisterium ensures the authentic interpretation of Scripture and Tradition. (85-87)
10. That the power of the Holy Spirit is exemplified in the life, work, and witness of the saints. (688) **Note to Catechist: Whenever teaching about the Saints, the Blessed Mother or Biblical heroes, point out that they responded to God’s call (vocation).**
11. That we offer prayers and Masses for those who have died, to benefit them on their journey to the Lord. We may also offer prayers and Masses for the living. (958, 1032)
12. That God desires that all human beings go to heaven and that he gives all human beings sufficient grace to go to heaven. However, God grants free will, and he does not force anyone to go to heaven. (1721)
13. That the hope and goal of all human beings should be heaven. It is eternal life, happiness, and love with the triune God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and all who are in heaven. It is the fulfillment of all of the deepest human longings. It is never-ending happiness. (1023-1029, 1045)
14. That hell is a reality and that those who die in un-repentant mortal sin go to hell. The principal punishment of hell is the pain of loss, which is eternal separation from God, in whom is all happiness. In addition, the Church teaches that those who are in hell also

- experience a sense of pain. (1033-1037) **Note to Catechist: God grants free will, so it is we who choose to separate ourselves from God, and God grants our choice.**
15. That the Church is made up of clergy and laity, and from each of these two states there are some who choose to live a consecrated life. (873) **Note to Catechist: See Appendix 9 on Vocations.**
  16. That we should follow the Blessed Mother’s example in giving our unconditional assent (“Yes”) to God with the same courage and faith that Mary modeled for us. (494) **Note to Catechist: This speaks to the universal call (vocation) of the baptized to holiness and that like Mary we too need to respond unconditionally with courage and faith. (1533, 2813)**
  17. That the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary refers to her being taken up by God, body and soul, into heaven at the end of her earthly life. Her Assumption is a foreshadowing of the resurrection and glorification of all those who die in God’s grace and friendship. (966) **Note to Catechist: The Church teaches definitively that the glorified bodies of Jesus and Mary are in heaven. Whether the body of Elijah the prophet or the bodies of the saints mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew are in heaven is not clear. (See Mt 27:52 — “the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.”)**

Expressions of Faith:

- Sharing with family members their understanding of a triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Living out their Catholic beliefs in their daily activities: praying regularly, professing to friends their belief in Jesus, resisting temptations, and encouraging others to develop their faith.
- Reading about and praying to saints appropriately.
- Accepting the example of Mary and of the saints as models for daily living.
- Showing respect for their bodies and the bodies of others by not fighting and not taking drugs or alcohol, proper nutrition and exercise, promoting the idea that they are a temple of the Holy Spirit.
- Acknowledging that hell is real, that Satan tries to lure us there.
- Reciting the Nicene Creed from memory at Mass.

Vocabulary Words:

Clergy	glorified body	Magisterium	witnessing
consecrated life	laity	vocation	
Free will			