RESOURCE BOOK
GRADE 6

CHURCH OF ST. MARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

STUDENT NAME: _____

CATECHIST NAME: _____

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Portfolio

Representing 3 years of Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

The process of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation is a three year process, at the Church of St. Mary, beginning in 6th grade. Each candidate for Confirmation will have the responsibility of creating a portfolio containing documentation of specific assignments and activities completed during their preparation for the sacrament. The portfolios will be kept with the catechists.

ELEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PORTFOLIO

SIXTH GRADE

- Faith Check-In
- "Favorite Person" in the Old Testament/Hebrew Text Worksheet
- Synagogue Visit Worksheet
- 7 Mass Reflection Sheets

SEVENTH GRADE

- Faith Check-In
- Gift of Service Essay (Parent Interview)
- Luke Essay
- Sponsor Interview & Information Sheet
- Work of Mercy Online Journaling (Service): __Parish | __Community
- 7 Mass Reflection Sheets ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

EIGHTH GRADE

- YouCat Assignment
- Confirmation Saint Project: Step 1 ____ Step 2 ____
- Letter to the Bishop
- My Catholic Faith Essay
- Work of Mercy Online Journaling (Service): Parish ___ Community ___
- 7 Mass Reflection Sheets ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

"May the God of hope
fill you with all joy
and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit"
Romans 15:13

Church of St. Mary

Church: 175 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045
Parish Center: 201 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Saturday: 7:30 am
Saturday (Vigil): 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, Noon & 5:00 pm*
**5 pm Sunday Mass during the school year*

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays in the church, 5-7:15 pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 8:00 am (or by appointment)

COMMON CATHOLIC PRAYERS

Our Father (or The Lord's Prayer)
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be (Doxology)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Prayer to Your Guardian Angel
Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Hail, Holy Queen (Salve Regina)
Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

The Angelus (usually prayed at noon)
The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Pray 1 Hail Mary, then:
Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy word.
Pray 1 Hail Mary, then:
And the Word was made flesh. And dwelt among us.
Pray 1 Hail Mary, then:
Let us pray:
Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts;
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, thy Son,
was made known by the message of an angel,
may by his Passion and Cross be brought
to the glory of his Resurrection.
Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God, this is how I'm feeling today:

close your eyes for at least 1 minute and tell God what is on your mind in this moment

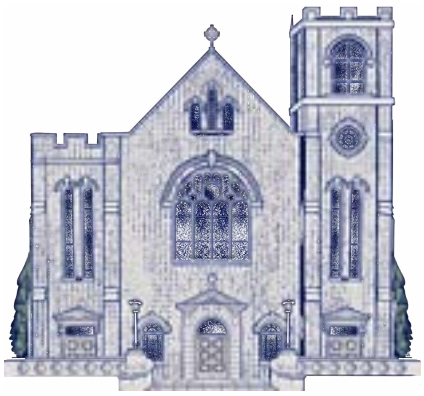
Lord, help me to see You today.
Help me to hear You today.
Help me to love You today.

spend 1 minute in quiet prayer with your eyes closed try to listen to God's voice speaking to your heart

God, I offer up all my prayers to You,
through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as I pray:

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.



PARTS OF THE MASS

Introductory Rites

We gather with the Sign of the Cross, remembering that we are one community gathered by God. We acknowledge our brokenness, ask God for mercy, and give glory to God for the gift of salvation in which we participate during Mass.

Liturgy of the Word

St. Paul reminds us that "faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ" (Rom. 10:17). We listen to the proclaimed Scriptures which recall the ways God has worked in salvation history. By engaging in the Word of God at Mass, we become aware that God is also actively at work in our world and in our lives.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

As the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar, we also offer our hearts and lives up to God. As we "lift up our hearts to the Lord," we discover that bread and wine are not the only things that are transformed at Mass. Just as the bread and wine truly become the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus, so do we become the Body of Christ, broken and shared for the life of the world. We "behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world" and receive Him in the Eucharist so that we can become what we have received: the Body of Christ.

Concluding Rites

Remembering that "Mass" comes from the Latin words of the dismissal, we keep in mind the importance of being sent forth from the church. After receiving the gift of Jesus' Body and Blood and giving thanks to God, we receive the blessing of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Transformed by God's love, we are sent out to "go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." In each moment of our week, we give witness to God's saving love and mercy.

Mass Responses

Greeting

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

*This greeting of the ancient church reminds us that the priest celebrates Mass **"in the person of Christ, Head of the Church."***

Penitential Act

I confess... *continued on the inside front cover of the missalette book in the pews.*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **R/ Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **R/ Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **R/ Lord, have mercy.**

*We begin Mass with two honest claims. First: "I am an imperfect sinner." Second, and more importantly: "**God's mercy** is far greater than my shortcomings."*

Gospel Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to _____.

Making the sign of the cross on the forehead, lips, and heart:

People: Glory to you, + O Lord.

*We use our right thumb to make the sign of the cross on our head, lips, and heart. This shows that we desire the Gospel (**"Good News"**) to shape our thoughts, words, and actions. In His life, death, and resurrection Jesus embodies the Good News of salvation: **God has conquered death, lives forever, and wants me to live with Him.***

After the reading of the Gospel:

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Preparation of the Gifts

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the *[bread/wine]* we offer you: fruit of the *[earth/vine]* and work of human hands, it will become for us *[the bread of life/our spiritual drink]*

People: Blessed be God, for ever.

*As we begin the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we offer simple gifts of bread and wine, trusting that God can and will transform them. By God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread we offer becomes the **Body of Christ** and the wine we offer wine becomes the **Blood of Christ.***

These prayers come from Jewish table blessings **(berakhah)**. *They evoke Christ's actions at the Last Supper, when He celebrated the feast of Passover and gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of His suffering, death, and resurrection.*

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

People: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

*Mass is not a passive gathering. In the Mass, we all join together to offer one **sacrifice of praise**. Mass is our full, conscious, and active participation in the saving work of Jesus Christ: **glorifying God** and **sanctifying the world**.*

Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.
Priest: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord.
People: It is right and just.

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Mystery of Faith

Priest: The mystery of faith.
We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.
or **When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.**
or **Save us, Savior of the world, for by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free.**

Invitation to Communion

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
People: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Concluding Rites

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.
Priest: May almighty God bless you, +
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All make the sign of the cross during the blessing and respond:
People: Amen.
In these or similar words, the priest sends the people forth:
Priest: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Our sacrifice of praise includes not only bread and wine, but also our hearts. Like the gifts of bread and wine, we know that **God wants to transform our hearts** beyond our imagination.*

*Eucharist means **"thanksgiving."** Giving thanks to God is right and just because gratitude makes us less selfish and more like Christ, who emptied Himself for others.*

*The Sanctus references two moments in Scripture where God's presence was revealed. The first half recalls Isaiah's vision of angels praising the Lord in the glory of the temple. The second half echoes the Jerusalem crowds who recognized Jesus as the Anointed One of God on Palm Sunday. In Mass, the Sanctus is meant to shake us awake to the reality that **God is here with us.***

*As the priest elevates the Eucharist, we truly behold the Lamb of God. Christ is the **new Passover Lamb**, whose Precious Blood saves us from death and bestows new life with God in the new and everlasting covenant.*

We respond with the same faith-filled humility of the centurion in the Gospel who believed in Jesus' healing power.

*The word "Mass" comes from the Latin **"missio."** This reminds us that our celebration of the Eucharist is not meant to be confined to the church building. Having received the Body and Blood of Christ, we are sent out to **be the Body of Christ, broken and shared for the life of the world.** As we return to our day-to-day lives, we know that God's peace goes with us. Nourished by the Eucharist, we seek to reveal God's love by the way we live.*

Rules of Capitalization

The Bible and Sacred Books – Capitalize all names for the Bible, books and versions of the Bible and all other sacred books.
Examples: Bible · Scripture · Good News · Word of God · Holy Bible · Old Testament · New Testament · Gospels · Ten Commandments · Lord's Prayer · Gospels · Gospel of Luke, Matthew, Mark, John · New American Bible

Creeds and Official Church Teaching – Capitalize all names of creeds and Biblical prayers and titles.
Examples: Lord's Supper · Apostles' Creed · Catechism of the Catholic Church · Nicene Creed

God, Jesus, Holy Spirit – Capitalize all names for God.
Examples: Father · Almighty · God · Lord · Holy Spirit · Jesus · Son of Man · Christ · Messiah · Lord of Hosts · Redeemer · Savior · Holy Trinity · Yahweh

Mary and the Saints – Capitalize all names and titles given to Mary and all of the Saints.
Examples: Our Lady · Our Lady Queen of Peace · Holy Mary · Holy Mother of God · Blessed Virgin · St. John the Baptist · St. John of the Cross · St. Teresa of Avila · St. John the Apostle · St. James the Greater

Liturgy and Sacraments – Capitalize church feasts, seasons, holy days, and names of the sacraments.
Examples: Mass · Advent · Christmas · Epiphany · Ash Wednesday · Lent · Holy Thursday · Good Friday · Triduum · Easter · Pentecost · Ordinary Time · All Saints' Day · Immaculate Conception · Ascension · Baptism · Reconciliation · Eucharist · Confirmation · Anointing of the Sick · Holy Orders · Matrimony

Rules of Capitalization Exercise

Please make capitalization corrections on the following by drawing a line through each letter that should be capitalized and writing the capital letter above it.
Example: J C S G S
jesus christ is the son of god and our savior.

1. The bible is a sacred book for all christians.

2. The four gospels were written by matthew, mark, luke, and john.

3. The lord's prayer was given to us by jesus.

4. We often refer to the mother of jesus as the blessed virgin, the holy mother of god, and our lady.

5. Jesus was baptized by st. john the baptist.

6. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation are baptism, confirmation, and eucharist.

Books of the Old Testament

The Pentateuch

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Historical Books

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah

Biblical Novellas

Tobit
Judith
Esther
1 Maccabees
2 Maccabees

Wisdom Books

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
Wisdom
Ben Sira
(Ecclesiasticus)

Prophetic Books

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Baruch
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Books of the New Testament

The Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

.....

Acts of the Apostles

.....

New Testament Letters

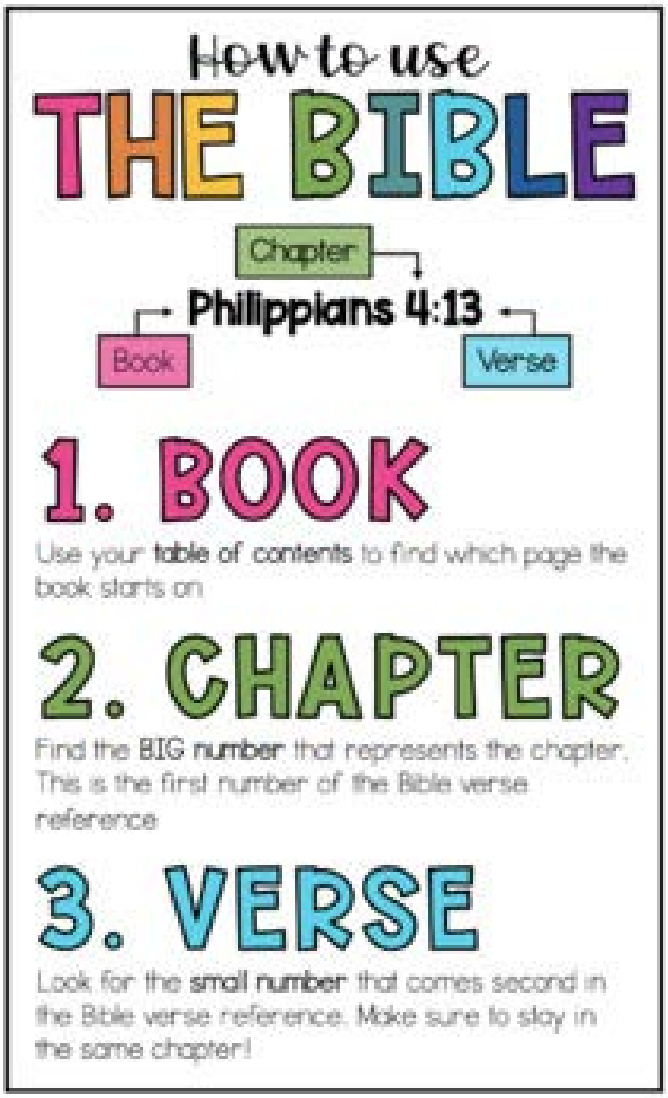
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews

.....

Catholic Letters

James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

Revelation



Practice navigating through your bible

How many books in the Old Testament? _____

How many books in the New Testament? _____

What is the name of the first book in the Old Testament? _____

What are the names of the 4 Gospels in the New Testament:

_____ _____

_____ _____

What is the first parable shared in Matthew 13: 1?

_____

What two kinds of animals did God help David kill as a youth, which gave him faith to fight a giant? 1 Samuel 17:34-36

_____ _____

In what part of the bible can you find the Book of Tobit?

_____

What gifts did the wise men bring baby Jesus? Matthew 2: 11

_____ _____ _____

Isaiah 65: 18 *(fill in the blanks)*

Instead, shout for _____ *and be* _____ *forever in what I am creating*

.***Romans 5: 1*** *(fill in the blanks)*

Therefore, since we have been justified by _____, *we have* _____ *with God through our Lord* _____ _____.

The Gospels

The word Gospel comes from the Greek word *euangelion*, which means _____ _____.

The _____ _____ *(same as above)* **is the life, _____, _____, and ascension of Jesus.**

Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew has _____ chapters.

The Gospel of Matthew is often written to appeal to a _____ audience.

Mark

The Gospel of Mark has _____ chapters.

The Gospel of Mark was probably written *[first/second/third/last]* **among the four Gospels.**

Luke

The Gospel of Luke has _____ chapters.

The author of Luke's Gospel also wrote this book of the New Testament: _____.

John

The Gospel of John has _____ chapters.

The Gospel of John was probably written *[first/second/third/last]* **among the four Gospels.**

Who is God?

Read the following passage from the YouCat and underline anything that describes who God is:

"We revere God as Father first of all because he is the Creator and cares lovingly for his creatures. Jesus, the Son of God, has taught us, furthermore, to regard his Father as our Father and to address him as "our Father".

(YouCat, no. 37)

How would you describe God?

God is One

Find: Deuteronomy 4:6 & Isaiah 44:6

God revealed Himself to the People of Israel as the only God. Instead of many gods (polytheism), the Israelites believed in one God (monotheism). This One God is the source of our unity as brothers and sisters in the human race.

Not only is there one God, but God has revealed Himself as a personal God, who created us to be in relationship with Him. God is not distant, God comes close to us and wants to live with us.

God is Three-in-One (The Holy Trinity)

Even though God is one, God also revealed His nature to be Trinitarian. Our God is a **communion of perfect love**: the perfect love between **the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Trinity describes God who is Three Persons, but one God. In other words, **God is love** (1 John 4:8). Love is not just something God *does*... love is who God *is*. Love is God's nature as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is Perfect Relationship: found in the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

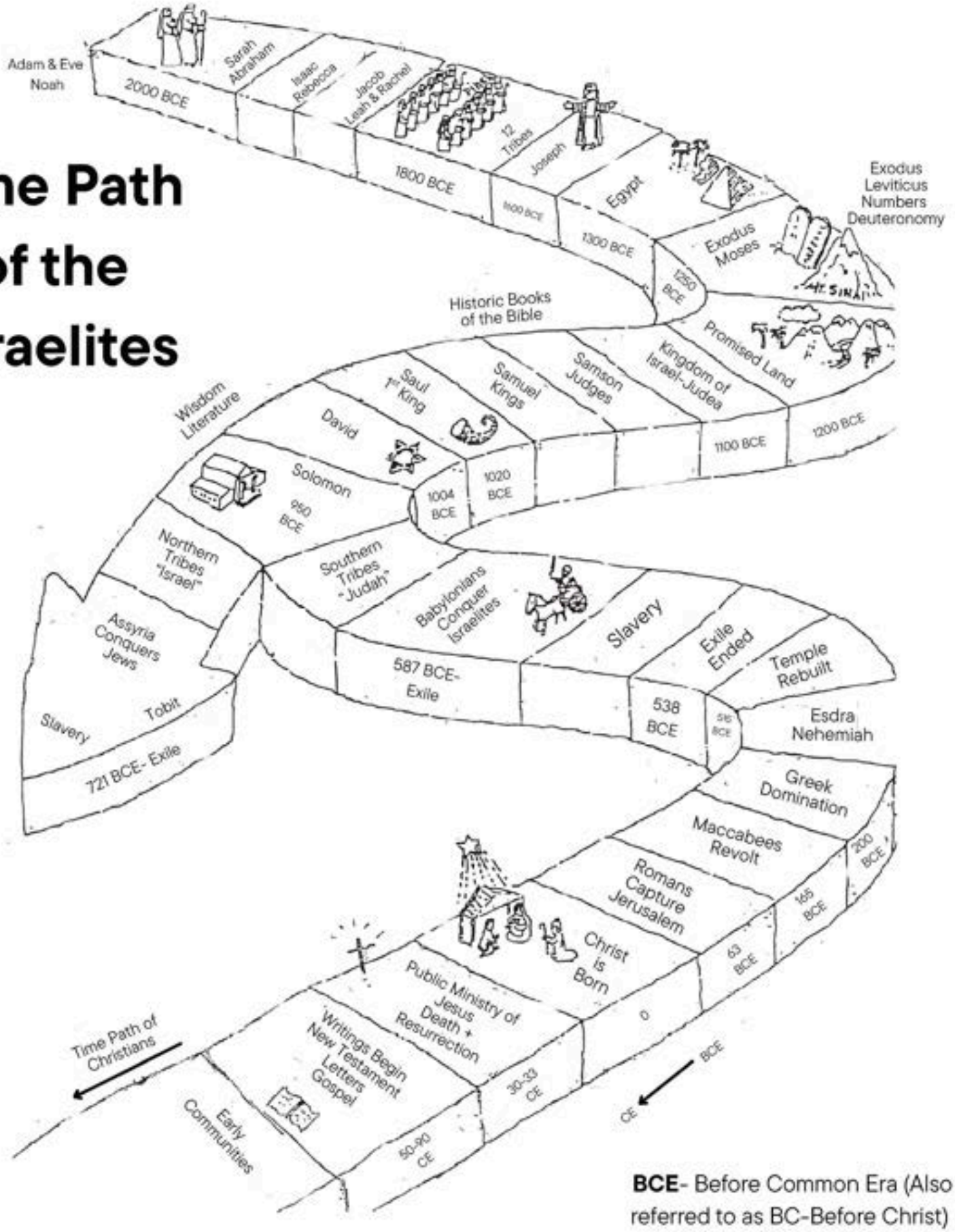
The Holy Trinity is NOT:

- One God acting in different costumes or modes or roles
- Three different gods (polytheism)
- One god with two lesser divine beings

The Holy Trinity IS:

- God is **one in substance** (one in essence; one in nature; "consubstantial")
- God is **three Persons** (there is a distinction between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
- God is **communion** (the distinction between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is found in the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit)

Time Path of the Israelites



BCE- Before Common Era (Also referred to as BC-Before Christ)

CE- Common Era (Also referred to as AD-Anno Domini which means "Year of our Lord")

Covenants

God is always faithful to his promise, even when humans fail. In Scripture and Tradition, this faithful relationship is a covenant.

Promises are important because they are at the heart of our most important relationships. All covenants are open-ended promises between two parties in which both vow to remain faithful to each other, no matter what adversity may come along.

Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition reveal that God has entered into covenant relationships with people over and over again throughout human history. God promised the Jewish people the security of possessions or a home, the help of companionship, the satisfaction of a long life, and the joy of heirs who will continue an important legacy. God offered his Chosen People all of these wonderful gifts and promised he would remain with them in return for their faithfulness.

† God is faithful to his promises; therefore, we can trust him.
† Covenants are promises made between God and human beings.
† The covenant with Noah is the first covenant described in the Bible. The rainbow is identified as the symbol of that covenant.
† In the covenant with Abraham, God promises to make Abraham's descendants a great people, and Abraham promises to be faithful to God.
† In the covenant with Moses, God promises to be the God of the Chosen People and to protect them. In turn, they promise to obey God's Law.
† In the covenant with David, God promises to establish David's throne forever. This covenant was fulfilled through Jesus Christ.
† The covenant fulfilled through Jesus Christ is called the New Covenant. It is really the fulfillment of the covenants God made with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David.
† In the New Covenant, God promises salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ. Through the first Apostles and the Church today, this promise of salvation is preached to all, with the help of the Holy Spirit.
† When Christ returns, God's promise of salvation will be complete.

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Covenants in Scripture

Genesis 9:1–17 (Covenant with Noah)
The entire world has turned to evil and is threatened with destruction. God finds one righteous person in Noah and offers him and the human race a chance to "start over."

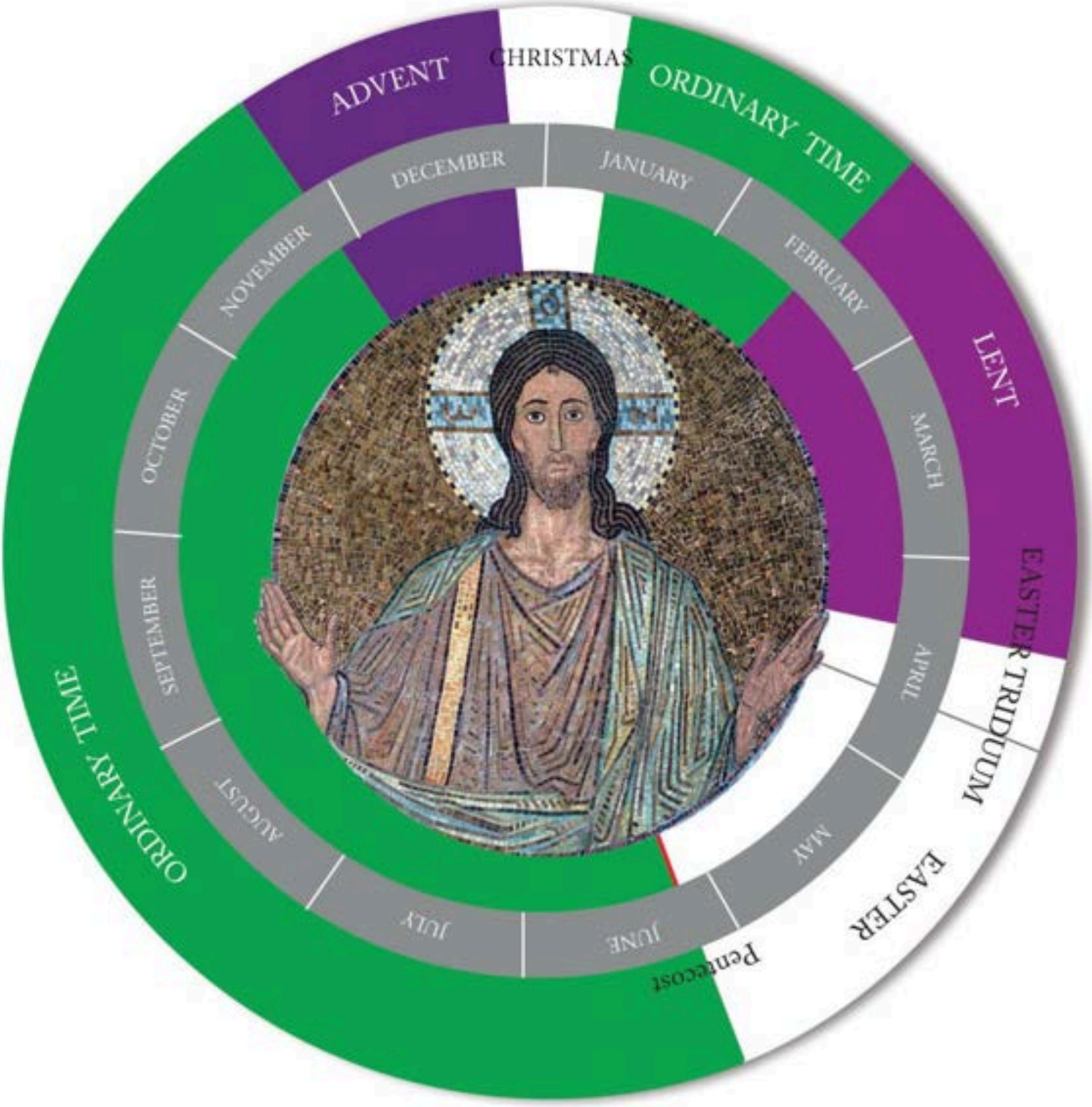
Genesis 12:1–9 (Covenant with Abraham)
Abram is an old nomadic shepherd without a homeland or an heir until God calls him, changes his name to Abraham, and promises him a long life, an heir, and land.

Exodus 19:2–11 (Covenant with Moses)
The Israelites have escaped enslavement by the Egyptians and are in the desert when God appears to Moses at Mount Sinai.

2 Samuel 7:8–16 (Covenant with David)
King David is promised a lasting kingdom that will live in unity and peace forever.

John 14:1–14 (God's Final Covenant in Jesus)
Jesus is the New Covenant who promises the restoration of eternal life, originally intended for the human race, in perfect harmony with God and one another.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR



The liturgical year begins with the season of _____.

The season of Lent is _____ days long. The season of Easter is _____ days long.

The Easter Triduum - also known as the Sacred Triduum or Paschal Triduum -- has three days, which are known as: _____, _____, and _____.

THE EIGHT BEATITUDES OF JESUS

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

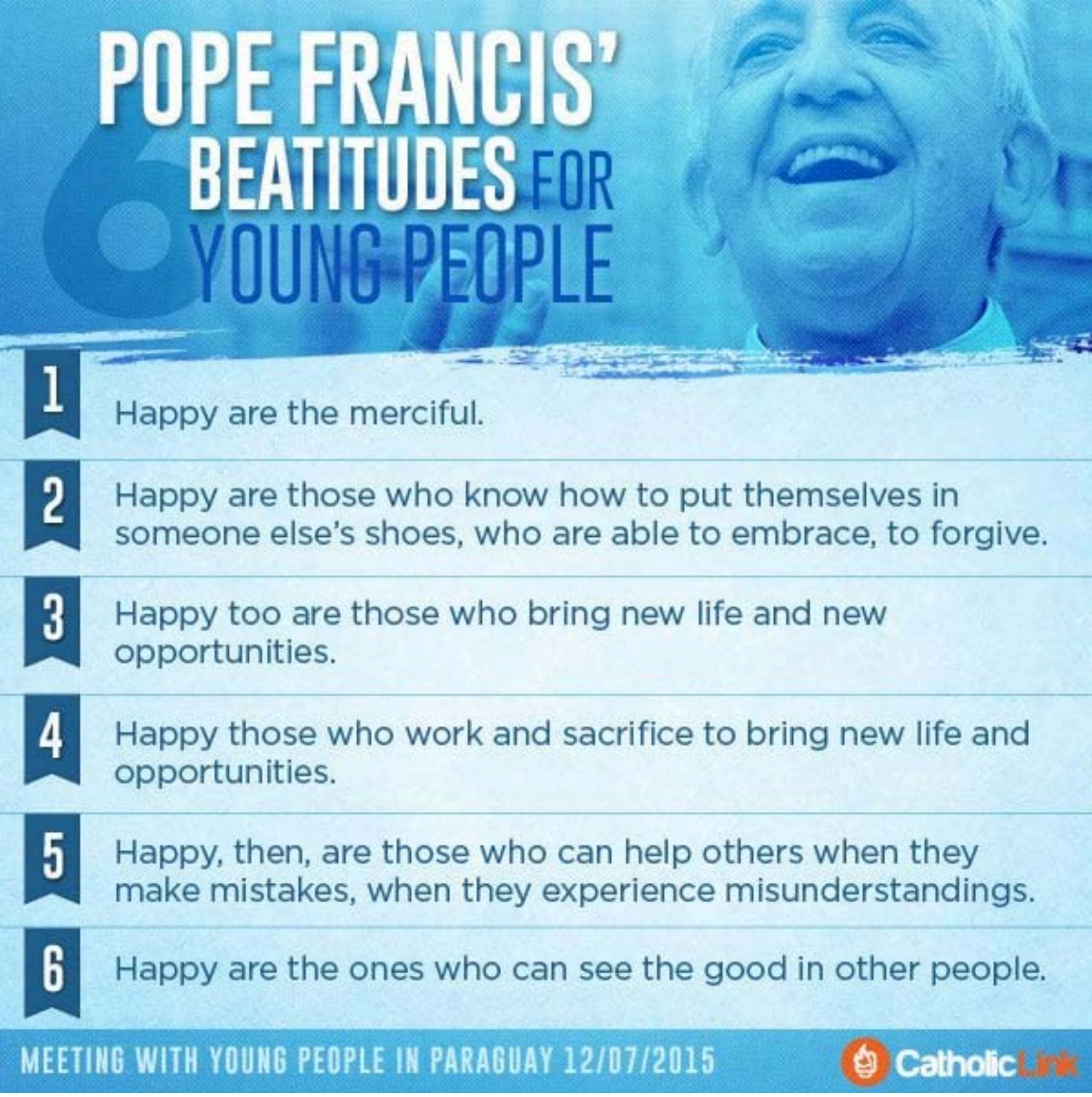
Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:3-10

Lord Jesus Saves



Pray with the beatitudes. Which one gives you hope and why? Which one do you find challenging and why?

Need music that radiates **truth, goodness, and beauty?**

Check out these artists!

Maverick City Music	Housefires
United Pursuit	Elevation Worship
The Vigil Project	Village Lights
Hillsong Worship	Bethel Music
Josh Garrels	John Mark McMillan
Chris Renzema	Aly Aleigha
Sarah Kroger	Matt Maher
NEEDTOBREATHE	UPPERROOM
Rend Collective	Taizé
Ike Ndolo	Lauren Daigle

Need content that radiates truth, goodness, and beauty?

Check out these Instagram pages!

Archdiocese of Chicago
@archchicago

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
@usccb

Word on Fire
@wordonfire_catholicministries

Life Teen
@lifeteen

Ascension Catholic
@catholicfaithformation

Grotto Network
@grottonetwork

Hallow App
@hallowapp

The Culture Project
@thecultureprojectintl

Pope Francis
@franciscus

Bishop Robert Barron
@bishopbarron

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal
@cfr_franciscans

Sisters of Life
@sistersoflifefans

SOLT Sisters
@soltsisters

The Society of Jesus (Jesuits)
@wearethejesuits

Servants of Christ Jesus
@servantsofchristjesus

Spirit Juice Studios
@spiritjuice

THE NICENE CREED

Read the Creed slowly, reflecting on the explanations:

"I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

*We believe in one God, who is a communion of Persons: **Father**, **Son**, and **Holy Spirit**. God, who created the entire universe, also calls us to be His adopted children in the sacrament of Baptism.*

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary, and became man.

*God is love. He wants us to know His love and to be close to Him. When we reject God's invitation of friendship, we cut ourselves off from source of our life. When we choose what is destructive to ourselves or others, we choose the way of sin and death over God's way of love and life. But God's love for us is so great that He could not leave us to suffer the consequences of a world broken by sin and death. God sent His Son so we could encounter His nearness. **Jesus** was born of Mary, so He is **fully human**. He is conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, so He is **fully divine**.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

*In His humanity, Christ is able to share in our brokenness, even to the point of death. In His divinity, Jesus is able to overcome that brokenness, even to the point of rising again to everlasting life. The **Cross** and **Resurrection** are the heart of our faith: God's love endures even to death and transforms the greatest darkness into the most glorious light. In Jesus we see what God wants for us: union of humanity and divinity. God wants to be with you forever.*

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

*The third Person of the Trinity is the **Holy Spirit**, who breathes new life into us, especially in the sacraments. God sends the Holy Spirit to guide us as we bear witness to God's love. The Spirit speaks to us in our heart and through the Scriptures.*

I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen."

*The Church is **one** because God, who is its source, is one. The Church is **holy** because Christ united Himself to the Church. The Church is **catholic** ("universal") because Christ is present in its mission to all people. The Church is **apostolic** because it is founded on Jesus' apostles, whose mission continues in the bishops and the baptized.*

Personal Reflection

"We do not only need bread [to live], we need **love**, **meaning**, and **hope**, a sound foundation, a solid terrain that helps us to live with an authentic meaning even in times of crisis, in darkness, in difficulty, and with our daily problems. **Faith gives us precisely this:** it is a confident entrustment to a **'You,'** who is God..."
(Pope Benedict XVI)

Reflect on one low moment of your life when you felt that you needed love, meaning, or hope. Did your faith in God help you then? Did God feel present or absent?

finding God in music

"Faith!?" by Chris Renzema

'Cause to leap into the unknown
Is to walk by faith not sight
We all get scared of what we don't know
But maybe that's alright

Faith feels like a freefall sometimes
I guess I still freak out sometimes
Faith feels like a freefall sometimes
I guess I still get scared sometimes

Covenants in Old Testament

	Adam	Noah	Abraham	Moses	David
Covenant Form	Marriage	Family	Tribe	Nation	National Kingdom
Scripture	Gen. 2:23-24	Gen. 9:11	Gen. 12:2-3 Gen. 15:5	Ex. 19:5-6	2 Sam. 7:16
Write the Scripture passage:					
What happens?	Adam and Eve become an image of God's covenantal love (Marriage)	Through the Flood, God re-creates, promising to never again destroy the earth (like Baptism)	Abraham will become the father of a great nation and a blessing to other nations	God offers the Law and promises to make the Israelites into a kingdom of priests/holy nation	God promises that David's kingdom (royal line) will be established forever (hint: Jesus!)
Covenant Sign	Sabbath	Rainbow	Rite of Circumcision	Passover	Throne

Mass Reflection Sheets

Why do I need to go to Mass?

Beyond the 3rd Commandment: You shall keep holy the Lord's day...
To be a Catholic, we are not only obligated to attend Mass regularly, but we *need* to gather with our faith community in prayer, celebration, and to receive Jesus, in the Eucharist, so that we can be renewed and refreshed to live faithfully in the coming week. This is where we are fed by the Word of God and by Jesus himself, through the Eucharist. The Mass is the greatest gift and prayer of the Church!

- Mass helps us to keep holy the sabbath. Not only are we called to go to attend Mass, but we are called to "reset" and rest. Enter into the day, into family time and into true rest and communion with God and one another. **Pray with Exodus 20:8**
- Come to Mass with intention! Both the intention to participate in the Mass and actual prayer intentions - something you would like to offer up to the Lord in prayer while you are at Mass **Pray with 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18**
- Participate! God does not want us to just keep the pew warm, but calls us to full participation by responding, singing, and experiencing all the "Catholic Calisthenics" (sitting, standing, kneeling, etc.) **Pray with Psalm 86: 12**
- Consistency is important to any aspect of life where we desire to be successful and find growth. This is true for our faith! Go as often as you can - whether you "feel like it" or not! Pray with **Deuteronomy 6: 4-9**
- Keep learning about the Mass! Keep asking the questions that help you draw closer to God and experience God's grace! **Pray with John 7: 37-38**

Why do I need to complete Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets?

As a person preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is important to reflect on the readings, liturgical music, homily and other aspects of the Mass. The Reflection Sheet give you the opportunity to both prepare before you go to Mass and to see how God is calling you to live as a disciple in the coming week.

Can I bring my Sunday Mass Reflection Sheet to Mass with me?

Ask your catechist (teacher) for a copy of the Mass Reflection Sheet. We ask that you submit your reflections online, but feel free to bring a copy of the questions to take notes on during Mass. Jot notes down to help you remember what stood out for you during Mass, but avoid filling out the whole reflection sheet during Mass so that you can fully participate with your faith community in this time of prayer.

How many Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets do I need to submit?

Each year of your Confirmation Preparation you need to submit at least 7 Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets, an average of 1 per month throughout the Religious Education year. You are encouraged to reflect on every Mass you attend, but you need only submit one Reflection Sheet each month. ***Reflections should be submitted from Masses you have attended in person***. Please submit your Mass Reflection Sheets through your Google Classroom.

What if I attend Mass at a different parish than The Church of St. Mary?

You can certainly complete a Sunday Mass Reflection Sheet if you attend Mass at a different Catholic parish.

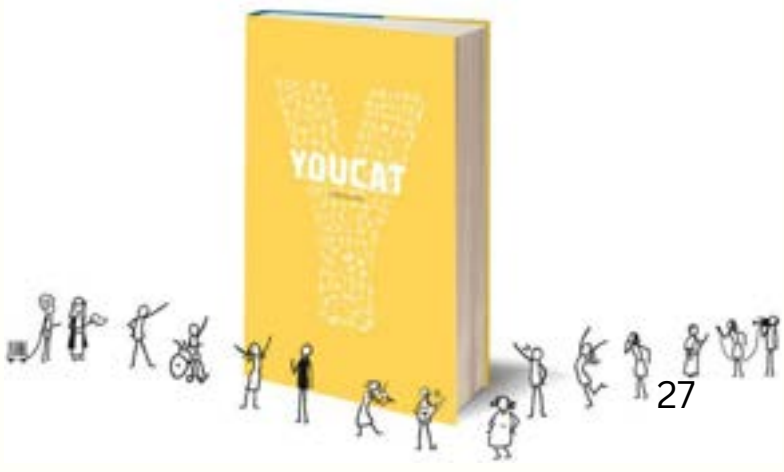
YouCat Assignment #1

Using your YouCat, answer the questions below. Please submit your answers through the Google Classroom.

What does YouCat stand for? (What is it an abbreviation for?

What are the Four Parts of the YouCat?

Looking at the Four Parts of the YouCat, which topic looks interesting to you?

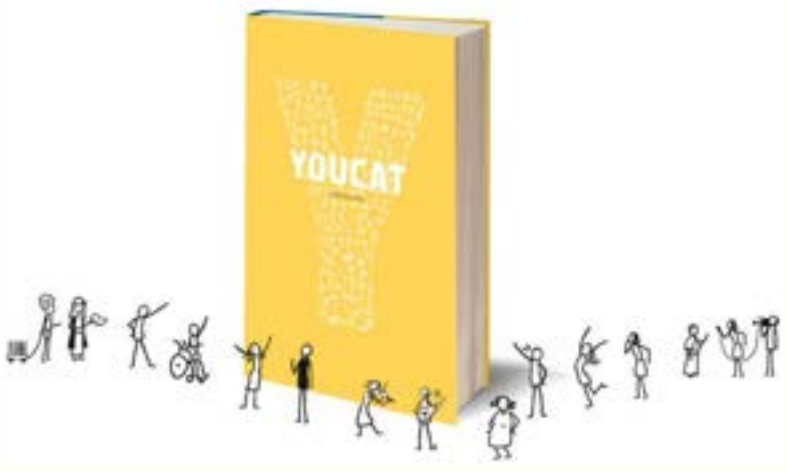


YouCat Assignment #2

Using your YouCat, read paragraphs 173, 194-211 and answer the following questions. Please submit your answers through the Google Classroom.

What are the Sacraments of Initiation?

Why do you think these Sacraments of Initiation are important to receive as a disciple of Jesus? (Please use complete sentences and your own complete thoughts.



Synagogue Terms & Background

Inside the synagogue: The synagogue is the Jewish place of worship, but is also used as a place to study, and often as a community center as well. Orthodox Jews often use the Yiddish word shul (pronounced shool) to refer to their synagogue. In the USA, synagogues are often called temples.

Segregation: In Orthodox synagogues men and women sit separately, and everyone (except young girls) has their head covered. In a Reform synagogue men and women can sit together.

The service: Synagogue services can be led by a rabbi, a cantor or a member of the congregation. Traditional Jewish worship requires a minyan (a quorum of ten Jewish adult males) to take place. In an Orthodox synagogue the service will be conducted in ancient Hebrew, and the singing will be unaccompanied. In a progressive (Reform, Liberal) synagogue the service will be at least partly in English, there may a choir and instruments, and men and women can sit together.

Clothing worn during worship

Hats and prayer shawls: Jewish men always wear hats when they are saying prayers which mention God's name. Observant Jewish men wear a hat almost all the time. The most common hat for men in the synagogue is a small round cap called a yarmulke (Yiddish) or a kippah (Hebrew), but an ordinary homburg or street hat will be accepted. Hats are always available for visitors.

Adult men (i.e. those over the age of 13) often wear a Tallit or prayer shawl for Morning Prayer. A Tallit has fringes (called tzitzit) on the edges to remind the wearer to observe God's commandments, which number 613 in total, the exact number of mitzvot detailed in the Torah.

Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. Then you will remember to obey all my commands and will be consecrated to your God. -Numbers 15:38-40

There are several times in synagogue services when people kiss these fringes - for example when the tzitzit (commandments) are mentioned.

Clothing worn during worship

The Ark and the Torah

The Torah is central to Jewish observance and Jewish life. It holds a special place of honor and is known as the "Tree of Life." The Torah scrolls each contain the Five Books of Moses; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Every synagogue contains a Holy Ark, which is a cupboard where the Torah Scrolls are kept, and a desk from which to read the Torah. The Holy Ark is called the Aron Kodesh. The Hebrew words of the Ten Commandments are usually written somewhere above the ark. The Ark is named after the wooden chest which held the stone tablets of the Covenant that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. The search for that original Ark formed the plot of the movie Raiders of the Lost Ark.

The Eternal Light

An Eternal Light (called Ner Tamid) hangs above the Ark. This light is always burning, as a symbol of God's presence. It also represents the pillar of fire that guided the Jewish people on their early journey.

Reading from the Torah

The platform and the desk for Torah readings are called the Bimah (pronounced beemar), and in an Orthodox synagogue are in the center of the building. In a Reform synagogue, the Bimah is usually close to the Ark. The bimah is built so that if faces towards Jerusalem.

At the proper moment in the service the Ark is ceremonially opened, and the Torah scroll is carried in procession to the reading desk, unrolled to the reading chosen for the day and laid on the reading desk. It is normal for everyone to stand whenever the doors of the ark are open.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

The word Mitzvah literally means commandment, bar means son, bat means daughter. Upon becoming a bar/bat mitzvah, a boy or girl takes on the mantle of religious obligation, becoming responsible for his or her own religious and moral choices.

Jewish law considers a young man who reaches the age of 13 to be a mature adult. Young women are considered mature when they reach the age of 12. The event is usually marked at a synagogue service on the Shabbat (Sabbath) after the young person's date of birth according to the Hebrew calendar. After the ceremony is complete, the young man is counted as part of a minyan. Bar Mitzvah celebrations have occurred since the fourteenth century. Bat Mitzvah celebrations have become common only in the twentieth century.

Synagogue Worksheet

Name:
Catechist:

1. What is the sacred language of Judaism?

2. What is the TORAH SCROLL and when is it used?

3. Where is the ARK located in a synagogue and what does it contain?

4. What is the Hebrew name for the ETERNAL LIGHT and what does is symbolize?

5. What is a Rabbi and what does a Rabbi do?

6. How many tassels are in the fringe of a TALLIT (prayer shawl) and what is their significance?

7. In what ways is our worship at church different from worship at a synagogue? In what ways is it similar?
· DIFFERENCES:

· SIMILARITIES:

8. Why is it important for Catholics to be familiar with the Hebrew Scripture and Jewish Traditions of worship?

List of a few people from the Old Testament/Hebrew Text

Abraham (Genesis 12: 1-3; 15:6; 17; 22)

Adam & Eve (Genesis 2:7, 18-24, 16-17)

David (1 Samuel 16, 17, 18, 2 Samuel 5, 1 Kings 2)

Deborah (Judges 4: 4-5, 6-16, 17-24; 5: 1-31; 5:7)

Elijah (1 Kings and 2 Kings)

Esther (Esther 4: 14, 16; 5: 1-8; 7: 3-6; 2: 17)

Isaac (Genesis 17: 15-19; 24, 26: 1-35;

Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; 40:31; 53:5-6)

Jacob (Genesis 25: 19-34; 27:1-40; 28:10-22; 32:22-32; 35:1-15; 49:1-28)

Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

Joshua (Joshua 1:1-11; 6; 24)

Judith (Judith 8; 10-13; 16)

Leah & Rachel (Genesis 29-30)

Moses (Exodus 2:1-10; 3:1-10; 7-14, 19-20; Deuteronomy 34)

Noah (Genesis 6:5-18; 7:1-5; 7:6-24; 8:1-19; 9:1-17)

Ruth & Naomi (Ruth 1:16-17, 2:12; 4:13-17; 1:1-5; 2:2-3; 3:10-11; 3:18; 4:18-22)

Samson (Judges 13-16)

Samuel (1 Samuel 1; 3; 9-16)

Solomon (1 Kings 3; 10)

Favorite Person in the Old Testament/Hebrew Text

Please submit via Google Classroom

My favorite person in the Old Testament is:

who is discussed in:
[Bible citation: Book, Chapter, & Verse(s)]

Please answer the following questions in complete sentences about your favorite person in the Old Testament.

1. **Describe what this person accomplished or experienced.**
2. **What interested you about this person?**
3. **Are you similar to this character? If yes, how? If no, how are you different?**
4. **What can you learn from this person or story?**

Date:

Scripture Passage:

What stood out to me:

Date:

Scripture Passage:

What stood out to me:

Date:

Scripture Passage:

What stood out to me:

Date:

Scripture Passage:

What stood out to me:

Date:

Scripture Passage:

What stood out to me:

Date:

Scripture Passage:

What stood out to me:

Consecration to Jesus through Mary

"When Jesus saw His Mother and the disciple there whom He loved, He said to His Mother 'Woman, behold your son.' Then He said to the disciple John, 'Behold your Mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home." -John 19: 26-27

What is a consecration?

In simple terms, consecration means making something holy or setting it apart for God's service. After preparing, "going on a spiritual journey with Mary", all participants of Religious Education will have an opportunity to make a formal consecration.

Why are we going through this Spiritual Journey of Consecration this year?

Did you know our parish is celebrating 150th Anniversary in September? We are! As a faith community we are celebrating this special anniversary in various ways, one being an opportunity to be consecrated to Jesus, through Mary (who is our Patron Saint).

What does it mean to go on spiritual journey with Mary?

We will see how Mother Mary invites us to dedicate our life to her son, Jesus, by sharing her examples of faith, learning about other Saints and saints, developing our prayer life, and finally having the opportunity to make a "formal consecration".

Let's get started...

When we were baptized, God planted a seed of faith in our souls. With Mary in our hearts, we can grow in holiness deepening the roots of our Baptism, our first consecration.

Mother Mary:

- helps us grow our seed of Baptism
- grow in holiness, with her intercession and example

Consecration to Jesus through Mary

Godparent(s): _____

BAPTISM
Date:

Place:

Just as the acorn will grow into a grand oak tree, this consecration with Mary in your hearts will help the seed of faith planted at your Baptism grow in your soul making you into a great saint.

Within the crown of the tree (where the leaves are) write habits in your life that help you live a holy life like receiving the Sacraments, going to Mass, praying, loving and thanking God, doing acts of kindness...

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Who is Mary?

"The creature totally filled with love, with God Himself, is the Immaculata, without the slightest stain of sin, the one who never deviated from God's will in anything. She is joined in an ineffable manner with the Holy Spirit because she is His Bride, but she is so in a sense incomparably more perfect than that word can convey in creatures." -St. Maximilian Kolbe

Make a list of things you know about Mother Mary:

At a young age, Mary said "yes" to God when an angel visited her to share that she was to conceive...and bear a son, and she would call him Jesus. Mary replied, "May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1: 26-38)

- Mary is a real person, who was from Nazareth in Israel
- Mary's parents were St. Joachim and St. Anne
- Through tradition we can picture Mary dressed in hand-woven wool or cotton tunics, covered by a shawl and wearing sandals on her feet.
- Mary lived life as we do, listening to her parents, learning, and helping around her home
- The more she knew about God the more she loved God - we can imitate Mary's love for God.
- After Jesus was born, and as Jesus entered into His ministry on earth, Mary always pointed others to her Son, Jesus. "Do whatever He tells you" -John 2:5

What are some titles, that you know, that have been given to Mother Mary? (Example: Mary, Queen of Heaven)

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Virtues of Mary

The bible stories of Mary tell of her many virtues. The virtues of Mary, like the rays of a star, shine a light on our way to being more like Jesus. For this reason, Mary is sometimes referred to as a "Morning Star," guiding us, shining the way to Heaven.

What is a virtue?
A virtue is a good habit and attitude to act with goodness and love. A habit is a pattern of behavior - it shapes who we are. Virtues help us be more like the person God intended us to be. Mary will help us make a habit of choosing goodness in all our actions. Virtues can transform our life!

Here is a list of some of Mary's virtues we can practice and that can help transform our life:

1. **Faith**: trusting and believing in God with a joyful heart.
2. **Charity (Love):** loving others for God, making kind and generous acts.
3. **Obedience:** listening and doing even when you don't understand.
4. **Prudence:** planning to do what is best for the right reason.
5. **Purity:** focusing on the things of Heaven, with pure and good intent.
6. **Temperance:** practicing self-control.
7. **Patience:** waiting calmly, keeping silent in your heart.
8. **Justice:** doing what you know is right, fair, and good, respecting others.
9. **Compassion:** forgiving others and praying for them.
10. **Fortitude:** being courageous in doing good.
11. **Prayer:** being aware that God is always in your heart at every moment.
12. **Wisdom:** seeing the beauty of God in all moments.
13. **Gentleness:** being joyful, kind, and friendly.
14. **Humility:** being happy about being a child of God and trusting Him.

Share how you have practiced a virtue recently in your daily life:

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Prayer Place

A prayer place is a special quiet area you set aside in your room or home where you can go meet God and the Blessed Mother to have a conversation with them. Prayer is talking and listening to God.

What does your prayer space look like? Where is it located?

"The hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your prayers."
-The Angel of Peace to the children of Fatima, 1916

Our faith tradition reminds us that when we pray we unite our prayers with all the saints and angels in Heaven. Our Guardian Angel is praying alongside us! When you pray, you are making a place in your heart for God. The more you pray the bigger the space you make for God to dwell in your heart.

Prayer consists of "speaking" and "listening". The bible is the Word of God and a way that God speaks to us. **What is one of your favorite scripture passages? Share it below:**

God loves you! God has a beautiful plan for you. The Blessed Mother will help you grow in holiness, loving God and His plan for you. Prayer is a gift from God! During your consecration journey, try to spend some time in prayer every day, even if only for 5 minutes.

Write a prayer, in your own words, that comes from your heart. When you are writing this prayer, write as if you were just talking to God. You can ask Mary, your Guardian Angel, or the saints to help you with your prayer.

Preparing for the journey with Saint Juan Diego...

Facts about St. Juan Diego

- Born in Cuauhtlatoatz in 1474
- Indigenous Mexican convert to Catholicism
- The Blessed Mother first appeared to him on December 9, 1531 while he was on his way to Mass.
- He was Our Lady's messenger to the Bishop of that area.
- The Bishop wanted "proof" that Mary had appeared to St. Juan Diego, so Mary sent him up a hill to pick flowers (in the winter time), and he listened, collecting the flowers and when he opened his tilma, an image of Mary was impressed on his clothing. You can still see his tilma at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

PRAY WITH ST. JUAN DIEGO:

Our Lady of Guadalupe, our Mother, we wish to be entirely yours. Teach us to love Jesus.

PONDERING WITH MARY

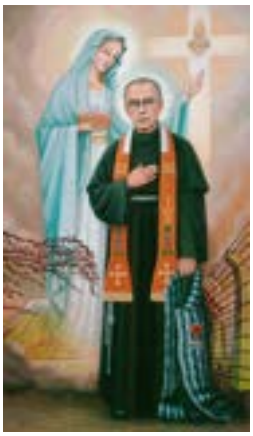
There are five ways to deepen your faith:

1. Pray every day.
2. Go to Mass every Sunday and to Confession often.
3. Learn about what the Catholic Church believes.
4. Read the Bible and the stories of the saints.
5. Entrust your heart to Mary: she will always lead you to Jesus!

"Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection?
Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the fold of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms?"
-Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Our Heavenly Friends

On the Spiritual Journey with Saint Maximilian Kolbe



Facts about St. Maximilian Kolbe

- Born in Zdunska Wola, Poland on January 8, 1894
- Felt called to religious life at a young age.
- He was a Conventual Franciscan.
- St. Kolbe travelled to Japan where he served as a missionary.
- St. Kolbe was arrested and sent to Auschwitz concentration camp for hiding Jewish people.
- Volunteered to take the place of a fellow prisoner, saving the life of Franciszek Gajowniczek, a husband and father at the same concentration camp who had been chosen to be tortured and killed. Gajowniczek was in attendance when St. Kolbe was canonized in 1982.

PRAY WITH ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE:

I am yours, my Immaculate Loving Mama. If you will be my guide, I most certainly shall not fall and I will become a saint, a great saint.

PONDERING WITH MARY

St. Kolbe asked for Mother Mary's intercession in all circumstances. When little Raymond (St. Maximilian) got into trouble, he immediately ran to pray and asked Our Lady for help and guidance. She took him by the hand and accompanied him throughout his whole life. Let us learn from him to the same. Think about all the times during your day you can ask Mama Mary in prayer to help you. Write a prayer to Mama Mary in your own words. Just as she was there listening to St. Max, she is listening to you!

"That night, I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me, a Child of Faith. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity, and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both."
-St. Maximilian Kolbe

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Our Heavenly Friends

On the Spiritual Journey with Saint Catherine Laboure and Saint Bernadette

Facts about St. Catherine Laboure

- Born in France on May 2, 1806
- Had 10 brothers and sisters
- After her own mother passed away, when she was 9, she turned to the Blessed Mother, praying "Now you will be my Mama."
- Belonged to the religious order of the Daughters of Charity
- Mother Mary appeared to St. Catherine and asked her to create the Miraculous Medal that we still use today. The rays from the image of Mary represent the graces which she gives to those who ask for her intercession.

Facts about St. Bernadette

- Born in Lourdes, France on January 7, 1844
- Mother appeared to St. Bernadette in a grotto, dressed in a white gown with a blue sash and a white veil with a golden rose on each foot. Mother Mary asked that St. Bernadette go to that same place everyday for fifteen days, where they would pray the rosary together.
- A clear stream appeared in the place where Mother Mary visited St. Bernadette. This same place is still visited by millions, many seeking her intercession and aid in healing.
- St. Bernadette's body is incorrupt, which means that it is preserved by God from decay!

PRAY WITH ST. CATHERINE AND ST. BERNADETTE

Both St. Catherine and St. Bernadette had a special devotion to the Holy Rosary. Select a mystery of the Rosary to meditate on and pray a decade of the rosary. Challenge yourself to pray the whole rosary on your own.

PONDERING WITH MARY

St. Catherine shared that the time spend with Mother Mary were the sweetest time of her life. Through her conversation with Our Lady, she was brought closer to Jesus, just as we are brought closer to Jesus through Mary with our prayers. Remember the rays of graces that flowed from the Blessed Mother's hands-she wants to share those graces with you. What graces do you need to help you in your day? Maybe you can pray for graces for others you care for and love. Write a prayer in your own words for graces for yourself or someone you love:

"Come to the foot of this altar. There, graces will be poured out on all those who ask for them with confidence and fervor." -Our Lady to St. Catherine Laboure

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Our Heavenly Friends

On the Spiritual Journey with Saint Dominic Savio and St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Facts about St. Dominic Savio

- Born in Riva, Italy on April 2, 1842
- When St. Dominic was 12 he consecrated himself to Mother Mary
- He was known to slip away from the playground, during recess, to visit the Blessed Sacrament
- At the age of 15, right before St. Dominic passed away, he say up in bed and said, "I am seeing the most wonderful things!" It is believed that St. Dominic was given the vision of heaven before dying.

Facts about St. Therese of the Child Jesus

- Born in Alencon, France on January 2, 1873
- St. Therese is the patroness of missions, even though she never went on one herself.
- St. Therese's parents were also canonized, St. Louis and St. Zelie
- St. Therese is considered a "Doctor of the Church" as she is well known for her unique spiritual writings

PRAY WITH ST. Dominic

O Mary, I give you my heart. Grant me to be always yours.

PRAY WITH ST. THERESE

St. Therese, Little Flower, grant that I may follow your Little Way through Mary to Jesus-the way of simplicity, joy, meekness and humility of heart, constant prayer, love, and confidence.

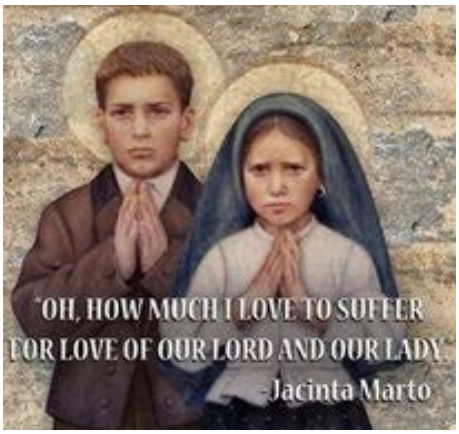
PONDERING WITH MARY

St. Don Bosco wrote about St. Dominic (St. Bosco was actually Fr. Bosco to Dominic) and shared how St. Dominic was always cheerful, doing the best he could to promote kindness with all at school. St. Dominic was courageous and would step in to stop fights-with gentleness. In the same way, St. Therese encouraged others to live and ordinary life doing everything with love for God, just as Mary did! What little acts of love can you do to bring more love into the world, list them below:

"Let us love, since that is what our hears were made for." -St. Therese of Lisieux

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Our Heavenly Friends

On the Spiritual Journey with Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto



Facts about St. Jacinta

- Born near Fatima, Portugal on March 11, 1910
- Sister of St. Francisco and cousin to Lucia
- St. Jacinta loved to dance
- Witnessed the Miracle of the Sun
- During the apparitions at Fatima only Lucia and St. Jacinta could hear the voice of Mary.

Facts about St. Francisco

- Born near Fatima, Portugal on June 11, 1908
- Brother of St. Jacinta and cousin to Lucia
- St. Francisco never heard the Lady's words, although he saw her and felt her presence
- Was courageous, a bit of a jokester, and a peacemaker
- You could often find him praying before the Blessed Sacrament
- When Mother Mary asked St. Francisco to pray more rosaries, he replied, "I'll say as many rosaries as you want!"

PRAY WITH ST. JACINTA & ST. FRANCISCO

Mother Mary shared the Pardon Prayer with St. Jacinta, St. Francisco and their cousin Lucia. Pray the Pardon Prayer: "My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love you! I beg pardon for those that do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You."

PONDERING WITH MARY

Saints Jacinta and Francisco prayed daily, several times a day, with each other and with their families in their homes. The Angel that appeared to the three little children in Fatima asked them to make sacrifices for God. What sacrifices are you willing to make in order to grow closer to God or to help someone in your life? It can be as simple as a gaze toward Heaven, a silent prayer from your heart, or the sacrifice prayer Mary gave the children.

"O Jesus, it is for the love of You, in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and for the conversion of poor sinners [that I do this.]"
-Our Lady of Fatima shared with the Three Children

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Our Heavenly Friends

On the Spiritual Journey with Saint John Paul II and Blessed Carlo Acutis

Facts about St. John Paul II

- Born in Wadowice, Poland on May 18, 1920
- During his pontificate, St. John Paul II increased the number of nations that had diplomatic relations with the Holy See, from 85 countries in 1978 to 174 in 2003
- He created World Youth Day which gathers youth from all over the world. The next WYD will be held in Seoul, South Korea in 2027.
- He had a phenomenal memory, which came in handy as an actor
- He continued skiing until he was 73 years old
- In attempted assassination, he said that it was Mother Mary who protected him from the bullet that should have taken his life

Facts about Blessed Carlo Acutis

- Born in London, England on May 3, 1991 but moved to Milan Italy before his 1st Birthday
- Had a love for the Eucharist and passion for technology. You can still visit the website he created about Eucharistic Miracles of the World
- He is the first millennial saint
- He loved video games, including Super Mario and Pokemon
- Pope Francis had planned to canonize Blessed Carlo on April 27th, but passed away. Pope Leo XIV has announced that Blessed Carlo will be canonized on September 7, 2025.

PRAY WITH ST. JOHN PAUL II

St. John Paul II gave us the Luminous Mysteries. Select one to meditate on and pray a decade of the rosary.

PRAY WITH BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Through the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, I present to You, my God, all petitions and I beg You to hear me.

PONDERING WITH MARY

Blessed Carlo had a great understanding and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. After Communion tell Jesus you love Him and thank Him for everything. What are you thankful for?

"Jesus, make Yourself at home! Live within me as if it were Your own dwelling!"
-Blessed Carlo Acutis

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Consecration Day

Congratulations on having completed your consecration journey!

Over the last few months we have prayed together, learned how Mother Mary continues to point all of us to her son, Jesus and how she continues to encourage us to do whatever Jesus asks of us.

How will I make my consecration to Jesus through Mary?

As a faith community, we will gather together, pray the consecration prayer below, receive a Miraculous Medal and be encouraged to wear it as a reminder that we have asked Mother Mary to watch over us and help us live faithfully for God.

We will ask Mother Mary to be placed under her mantle. What does that mean? A mantle is an article of clothing, similar to a cape or cloak, that was used in biblical times to keep a person warm and protect them from the elements. In the same way we are asking to be "wrapped" in God's authority, or even being graced with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus gave His mother to John, at the foot of the cross, Jesus gives his Mother to all of us-to be wrapped in her mantle", in her care and protection.

- Pray the rosary with your family or on your own before being consecrated
- Go to Confession within the week of your consecration day
- If possible, go to Mass on the day of your consecration and receive Jesus in the Eucharist
- Ask St. Maximilian and Our Lady how to be an example for others, making her and Jesus known and loved through your example, actions, words, and prayer.

CONSECRATION PRAYER

O Immaculata, turn your gaze to me.
I _____(name), want to live my baptismal consecration in a generous Christian life, so I can be a faithful witness to the truth. I know I am weak and I will experience many temptations in my life, so I consecrate myself totally to you.

In your hands, I want to be an obedient instrument of your love. Guide me and protect me and make me fruitful in all I do, pray, and suffer.

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, accept this offering from my heart. Listen to my voice that expresses my great love for you. You are the Queen of my life, of my family, of the whole world.

Protect me as you did the Child Jesus. Keep me pure and teach me to love Jesus. Write His name on my heart with your gentle hands.

Mary, be my Mother forever. I love you, Mary. Amen.

Lectio Divina Guide

- A WAY TO REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD

Prepare - Silencio

Become aware of God's presence. Quiet your mind and body, and offer yourself to God. (Try a few deep breaths and a simple prayer such as "Come, Holy Spirit, Come.")

Read - Lectio

Read the passage slowly, out loud if possible. Avoid analyzing and simply try to savor the words, letting them sink in. Listen for a nudge: What words or images is the Spirit drawing you toward today? What character do you identify with?

Reflect - Meditatio

Re-read the passage, lingering over the person/word/phrase that captured your attention. Imagine yourself in the story: What are the people thinking/feeling? Or consider a phrase or image: What does it bring to your mind ? What kind of feelings is this passage evoking in you--attraction or resistance? Invite the Spirit to reveal how this passage might speak to you and your life.

Pray - Oratio

Allow the Scripture to lead you into a prayer response. Talk to God about what has come to mind, and how he might be inviting you to respond.

Contemplate - Contemplatio

Rest in the awareness of God's presence, remaining open to anything else the Spirit might stir. Simply be still. Expect nothing. Enjoy a moment of fellowship with God that goes deeper than words. Relax in this moment to *be*, with God. And know you are loved.