

# **Grades 6-8 Religion Essential Standards**

## **Standard #1: CREED [BELIEF]**

**Explore the presence of the Trinity.**

- Recognize the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **Standard #2: SACRAMENTS [GIFT]**

**Understand the Sacraments as the life-giving powers of Christ.**

## **Standard #3: CHRISTIAN LIVING [LIFE]**

**Demonstrate principles of Christian living.**

- Model faith in words and actions.
- Make moral decisions consistent with Church teachings.
- Examine vocations as God's call.

## **Standard #4: PRAYER [RELATIONSHIP]**

**Know the meaning and importance of prayer in life.**

## Directions for Use of Content Checklist

The Content Checklist designed by grade level is to accompany the Essential Standards. Faculty discussion will need to take place to ensure consistency in teaching. The administrator should reproduce the Content Checklist and distribute it to all teachers.

The format for the Content Section is as follows:

1. Blank box to record the date of instruction of content or to use as a check-off to indicate that instruction of content occurred
2. Numeric system that identifies the specific content statement
3. Content Statement
4. Catechism of the Catholic Church Reference (CCC)
5. Level of Teacher Instruction:  
Introduce (I), Develop (D), Master (M)

Introduce (I): To provide with a beginning knowledge or first experience of something.

Develop (D): To progress from simple to more complex through practice.

Master (M): To gain control over content; to understand and be able to retrieve the specified material for use as needed.

**Teachers will use this curriculum as the basis for planning their lessons for the year. Use of the curriculum will assist students in attaining the standards for which all are accountable. Teachers are required to spend 80% of their time teaching strictly from the curriculum guide with the remaining 20% of their time teaching concepts that enhance the curriculum.**

**Archdiocese of Omaha Religion Curriculum  
Middle School Grades 6-8 Content Checklist**

**CREED-BELIEF**

<b>Essential Standard #1: Explore the presence of the Trinity. * Recognize the works of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.</b>	<b>Gr. 6</b>	<b>Gr. 7</b>	<b>Gr. 8</b>
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**Faith**

1.1.1	Explore faith as a gift from God. (CCC, #179)	I	D	M
1.1.2	Describe how we are called to be God's chosen ones as He knows us and calls us by name.	D	D	M
1.1.3	Recognize that God's covenant is revealed to us through Jesus.	I	D	D
1.1.4	Examine how Christian faith requires a relationship with God and others.	D	D	D
1.1.5	Recall that Adam and Eve transmitted to their descendants the effects of the first sin called original sin. (CCC, #417)	M		
1.1.6	Recognize how death and the inclination to sin are consequences of original sin. (CCC, #418; 1008; 1018)	D	D	M

**Scripture**

1.2.1	Explore how the Bible tells us that God and God's goodness prevail over sin and evil.	D	D	M
1.2.2	Recall that the Bible is a collection of books written under God's inspiration.	D	M	
1.2.3	Recognize that the Bible contains a variety of literary forms.	I	D	M
1.2.4	Describe the Bible as 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament.	D	M	
1.2.5	Recognize that the Old Testament contains the roots of our faith and prayer. (Creation, Sacrifice, Covenant, Wisdom Books i.e. Psalms, Proverbs)	I	D	M
1.2.6	Recognize that the Old Testament is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.	I	D	M
1.2.7	Describe how the New Testament teaches us about the person of Jesus and the meaning of following Jesus and living the Good News.	I	D	M
1.2.8	Summarize how Jesus teaches about God, prayer, justice, peace, service, stewardship, and moral life in Scripture.	D	D	D
1.2.9	Relate the Church teachings to Scripture through the use of the Bible.	D	D	D

**Doctrine and Dogma**

1.3.1	Describe how God, the Father, chose to send Jesus to us for our salvation.	M		
1.3.2	Recognize that the Nicene Creed states our beliefs.	I	D	M
1.3.3	Recognize that the Paschal Mystery is Jesus' dying, rising, and sending of the Spirit to live forever with God's people.	I	D	D
1.3.4	Recognize that Jesus' dying and descending into the "realm of the dead" conquered death and the devil. (CCC, #635-637)	I	D	D
1.3.5	Recognize that Jesus' ascension into heaven marks the entrance of humanity into heaven. (CCC, #665)	I	D	D
1.3.6	Recognize that, at death, the soul is separated from the body. (CCC, #997)	D	D	D
1.3.7	Identify that, in resurrection, God will give new life to our body in union with our soul. (CCC, #997)	D	D	D
1.3.8	Recognize that hell's principal punishment is the eternal separation from God. (CCC, #1035)	D	D	M
1.3.9	Recognize that Mary remained a virgin in conceiving her Son. (CCC, #510)	I/D	M	
1.3.10	Recall that the Immaculate Conception and Assumption are dogmas regarding Mary.	D	M	

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**CREED CONTINUED**

**Trinity**

1.4.1	Recognize the mystery of the Trinity as the core of our faith through the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as one God, the Holy Trinity. (CCC, #234)	D	D	M
1.4.2	Recognize that the Incarnation is the mystery of the union of true God true man. (CCC, #464-478)	I	D	D
1.4.3	Examine how the mystery of the Holy Spirit was revealed in the person, words, and works of Jesus Christ.	I	D	M
1.4.4	Describe creation, redemption, inspiration, and guidance as the work of the Holy Trinity. (CCC, #290-292)	I	D	M

**Church**

1.5.1	Define the Church as the People of God and the Body of Christ.	M		
1.5.2	Define Pentecost as the birth of the Church.	D	D	M
1.5.3	Identify how the Holy Spirit guides the Church. (CCC, #683-701; 737-741)	I	D	M
1.5.4	Describe the Church as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.	D	D	D
1.5.5	Recognize that the Church exercises its teaching authority through the Magisterium.			I
1.5.6	Recognize that the beliefs of the Church are rooted in Scripture and Tradition. (CCC, #80-82)	I	D	M
1.5.7	Describe how we follow the laws, (precepts) of the Catholic Church. (CCC, #2041-2043)	D	D	D
1.5.8	Recognize that the Church is the means through which God's plan is revealed for all humanity. (CCC, #758-760)	I	D	D
1.5.9	Describe Mary as the mother of the Church. (CCC, #963)	I	D	D
1.5.10	Recognize that there is a relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and other established religions.	I	D	D

**Community**

1.6.1	Recognize how God's people are called to continual reform and renewal.	I	D	D
1.6.2	Summarize how Catholics are involved in the life, mission, and work of the family, parish, and community through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.	D	D	D

**Creation**

1.7.1	Explain how God has asked us to explore all the ways that we can care for the world.	D	D	M
1.7.2	Illustrate how we are thankful for the gifts that we have been given.	M		
1.7.3	Investigate how Catholic tradition calls us to share what we have with others.	I	D	M

**Archdiocese of Omaha Religion Curriculum  
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**SACRAMENTS-GIFT**

<b>Essential Standard #2: Understand the Sacraments as the life-giving powers of Christ.</b>	<b>Gr. 6</b>	<b>Gr. 7</b>	<b>Gr. 8</b>
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**Sacrament**

2.1.1	Explore how Sacraments are the center of the daily life of a Catholic Christian.	I	D	D
2.1.2	Recognize that Sacramental actions of the Church originated in Jewish rituals.	I	D	D
2.1.3	Understand Sacraments as the "power that comes forth" from Christ. (CCC, #116)	I	D	M
2.1.4	Define Sacraments as signs and symbols that make God's grace present to us.	I	D	M
2.1.5	Define the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) as those that give us new life, strengthen us, and nourish us as we are joined to the Christian community. (CCC, #1275)	I	D	M
2.1.6	Define the Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick) as those that celebrate God's forgiveness and the renewal of the spiritual and physical life.	I	D	M
2.1.7	Define the Sacraments of Service (Matrimony, Holy Orders) as those directed towards the salvation of others as well as one's personal salvation. (CCC, #1534)	I	D	M
2.1.8	Explain the name Jesus to mean "God saves," and the title Christ to mean "Anointed One." (CCC, #430-440)	D	M	
2.1.9	Define the unfolding of the Paschal Mystery throughout the Liturgical Year.	I	D	M
2.1.10	Examine the Mass as the community's central act of worship including thanksgiving, remembrance, and communion.	D	D	D
2.1.11	Define grace as God's gift of His own life and presence to people. (CCC, #2023)	I	D	M

**Baptism**

2.2.1	Define Baptism as the beginning of the Christian experience of a call from God. (CCC, #1267-1269)	I	D	M
2.2.2	Explain that Baptism imprints a spiritual or indelible character on the Christian's soul so that no sin can erase the mark. (CCC, #1272)	I	D	M

**Reconciliation**

2.3.1	Recognize Reconciliation as a celebration of God's forgiveness that unites us with God and the Church.	I	D	M
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**Eucharist**

2.4.1	Recognize that we celebrate peace and unity as Jesus calls us to participate in the reign of God through the Eucharist.	I	D	M
2.4.2	Define the mystery of the Eucharist as the sacrifice of the body and blood of the Lord.	I	D	M

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**Confirmation**

	2.5.1	Recognize that Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian's soul; for this reason, one can receive this Sacrament only once in one's life. (CCC, #1317)	I	D	M
	2.5.2	Identify the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit as wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. (CCC, #1831)	I	D	M
	2.5.3	Recognize that a candidate for Confirmation must be in the state of grace. (CCC, #1310)	I	D	D
	2.5.4	Identify how the Sacrament of Confirmation prepares us to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ. (CCC, #1319)	I	D	M

**Anointing of the Sick**

	2.6.1	Explore how the Anointing of the Sick celebrates Christ's healing presence in our lives.	I	D	M
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**SACRAMENTS CONTINUED**

**Matrimony**

	2.7.1	Define Matrimony as a Sacrament when it is validly contracted between a baptized woman and man. (CCC, #1601)	I	D	M
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**Holy Orders**

	2.8.1	Discuss the Sacrament of Holy Orders as one that the Church confers only on baptized men, whose suitability for the exercise of ministry has been duly recognized. (CCC, #1577-1579)	D	D	M
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**Mass**

	2.9.1	Explain the seasons of the liturgical year. (CCC, #1163-1173)	D	M	
	2.9.2	Explain how lay people assist the priest at Mass by performing particular ministries. (CCC, #1143-1144)	D	D	D

**Discipleship**

	2.10.1	Identify the Church as a communion of saints, holy persons in communion with Christ who died for all. (CCC, #946-948)	I	D	D
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**CHRISTIAN LIVING-LIFE**

**Essential Standard #3: Demonstrate principles of Christian living.**

- \* **Model faith in words and actions.**
- \* **Make moral decisions consistent with Church teachings.**
- \* **Examine vocation as God's call.**

**Vocation**

	3.1.1	Identify Christian vocations including single, married, religious, or ordained life as God's call to discipleship.	D	D	M
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**CHRISTIAN LIVING CONTINUED**

**Human Dignity**

3.2.1	Identify that we are all children of God because of God's creation and covenants.	I	D	D
3.2.2	Recognize that human life is sacred and must be respected and protected from conception to natural death. (CCC, #2258-2301)	D	D	D
3.2.3	Examine people's individual and cultural differences as gifts from God that should be respected.	D	D	D
3.2.4	Examine how cultural diversity enriches our Church.	D	D	D
3.2.5	Define how our life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. (CCC, #2288)	D	D	D

**Human Interaction & Sexuality**

3.3.1	Recognize that responsible relationships are based on love, honesty, and respect.	D	D	M
3.3.2	Identify skills such as listening, self-disclosure, and compromise as necessary for communication with others, being a friend, handling peer pressure, and specific problems.	I	D	D
3.3.3	Recognize that human sexuality is integral to one's personal identity.	I	D	D
3.3.4	Recognize that Catholic Christians have specific sexual moral values.	I	D	M
3.3.5	Identify how Jesus Christ, the model of chastity, calls every baptized person to lead a chaste life.	I	D	D
3.3.6	Explore how parents are responsible to educate their children in the right use of reason and freedom. (CCC, #2221-2231)	D	D	D
3.3.7	Recognize that we respect the human body as sacred life.	D	D	M

**Moral Conscience**

3.4.1	Recognize that Catholics make moral decisions based on Scripture, principles of Christian living and consistent with Church teachings.	I	D	D
3.4.2	Recognize that Christians are obliged to follow the moral law to do what is good and avoid what is evil. (CCC, #1700-1709)	I	D	D
3.4.3	Identify the basis of moral decision-making within the Catholic Christian context as conscience, sin, and reconciliation.	D	D	M
3.4.4	Identify the theological virtues as the foundation of Christian moral activity. (CCC, #1813)	D	D	D
3.4.5	Recognize that the human (cardinal) virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance) give Christians the habit and firm disposition to do good. (CCC, #1805-1809; 1834-1838)		I	D
3.4.6	Recognize that Catholics identify two different types and degrees of sin. (CCC, #1854-1864)	D	D	D
3.4.7	List the capital sins of pride, envy, lust, gluttony, laziness, greed, and anger. (CCC, #1866)		I	D
3.4.8	Examine how purity of heart demands prayer, the practice of chastity, and purity of intention. (CCC, #2517-2533)	D	D	D
3.4.9	Recognize that Superstition, Divination, and Idolatry are practices that are contrary to our love of one God. (CCC, #2110-2117)	I	D	D



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**CHRISTIAN LIVING CONTINUED**

**Social Justice**

3.5.1	Recognize that Scripture teaches us the importance of working for justice, peace, equality, and stewardship in our lives.	D	D	D
3.5.2	Identify how the Beatitudes challenge us to continual conversion in our personal and social lives.	D	D	M
3.5.3	Recognize that peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity. (CCC, #2304)	D	D	D
3.5.4	Explore how we are called to respond to injustice by showing charity and love to others as good stewards. (CCC, #1937)	D	D	M
3.5.5	Recognize that human work is a gift from God, created to provide service to the entire human community. (CCC, #2426-2436)	I	D	D

**Community Service**

3.6.1	Explore how service is an essential element of discipleship.	D	D	D
3.6.2	Identify ways that Jesus lived and taught us about living a life of love and service.	D	D	M
3.6.3	Model the Catholic faith in words and actions through the contribution of time, talent, and treasure.	D	D	D

**PRAYER-RELATIONSHIP**

**Essential Standard #4: Know the meaning and importance of prayer in life.**

**Prayer**

4.1.1	Identify how prayer provides a deepening awareness of our covenant relationship with God.	I	D	D
4.1.2	Examine how the Mass is the community's central act of worship.	I	D	D
4.1.3	Explore the meaning and importance of developing our relationship with God through personal prayer, reading of Scripture, the Sacraments and devotions.	D	D	M
4.1.4	Identify the Psalms as the masterwork of prayer in the Old Testament. (CCC, #2585-2589)	D	D	D
4.1.5	Recognize that diverse expressions of prayer (e.g. vocal, meditative, contemplative) create openness to God. (CCC, #2700-2724)	I	D	D
4.1.6	Identify the obstacles of prayer that attempt to move us away from a loving relationship with our Father. (CCC, #2725-2745)	I	D	D
4.1.7	Recognize that indulgences help the faithful obtain forgiveness for themselves and also for the souls in Purgatory. (CCC, #1498)	D	D	D
4.1.8	Examine how the Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, teaches us to pray. (CCC, #2650-2652; 2661; 2670-2672)	D	D	M
4.1.9	Identify the five basic forms of prayer: blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise. (CCC, #2626-2649)	I	D	D
4.1.10	Recognize that the Lord's Prayer summarizes the whole gospel and is the most perfect prayer. (CCC, #2759-2776)	D	D	D
4.1.11	Recognize that we express our faith and trust in the Lord just as Mary did when we pray to and with the Blessed Virgin Mary. (CCC, #2673-2679)	D	D	D
4.1.12	Identify that the saints share in the living tradition of prayer so we can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world. (CCC, #2683; 2692)	D	D	M