

Middle School Religion Curriculum

St. Anne & St. Jude Catholic School strives to put the Word of God into students' everyday lives. This goal is carried out in several ways. First, The Knights of Columbus generously donate a personal copy of the Bible to each new middle school student. Second, throughout the middle school religion courses, the students explore and compare the information presented in their religion textbooks with deeper meaning revealed by reading the full Biblical passages. As students come to terms with what the Bible is revealing, they then compare that revelation of God with how they are living their lives. Third, the students each keep a journal in which they reflect on a specific question given to them as a homework assignment. The journals are private and as such, provide the student with a document of their journey with God in a way that allows them to be open and honest with themselves without fear of censure or ridicule.

Every effort is used to incorporate several methods of learning, including prayer, reading, skits, student reports, as well as service projects and activities. These various methods of learning help the students: integrate their faith into their everyday lives, adopt a generous and compassionate spirit, and become more aware of the needs of others. The middle school religion courses continue with the Faith First textbook series used in the lower school with the exception of the 6th grade textbook which is Christ Our Life. These textbooks have been found to be "in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church" by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The 5th grade book is divided into the four pillars of the Catholic faith: "We Believe" (Analysis of the Apostles' Creed), "We Worship" (Study of the Liturgy and the Sacraments), "We Live" (Teachings on Christian Morality), and "We Pray" (Prayer and Spirituality).

The 6th grade book covers the Old Testament and is divided into five Units. Unit one covers an overview of the Bible, God's Creation through the story of Noah. Unit 2 is God forms a family of faith which covers Abraham to Joseph. Unit 3 is all about Moses, the exodus and the promised land. Unit 4 covers The Judges through David and Solomon. Unit 5 covers the prophets.

The 7th grade covers "The Mystery of God" in the first semester and "Jesus in the New Testament" during the second semester. "The Mystery of God" compares God's promise given in the Old Testament with the revelations of the New Testament. "Jesus in the New Testament" continues the study of the New Testament revelations with an in depth study of the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles and the Book of Revelation.

The 8th grade covers "Church and Sacraments" and "Church History" during the first semester. "Morality" is the focus of the second semester. "Church and Sacraments" is a brief overview of the seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church. "Church History" reviews events from the resurrection of Jesus, the rise of Christendom, the Reformation, the Church in the New World, and the modern world. "Morality" --through the study of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes-- teaches students how to make successful moral decisions throughout life.

The curriculum, while based on the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, truly embodies the word catholic, meaning universal. We respect and welcome all God-loving religions and try to incorporate how they worship and what they believe into our discussions.