

# *First Semester*

## **I. GOD THE FATHER**

A. FIRST PERSON OF THE TRINITY (238-40)

B. CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH Gn. 1:1-25

## **II. CREATION (337)**

A. CREATION OF THE WORLD Gn. 1:1-25  
(275, 295)

B. CREATION OF PEOPLE Gn. 1:25-31, 2:1-25

C. HUMAN BEINGS HAVE A UNIQUE PLACE IN CREATION

1. God created human beings in his own image. Gn. 1:27, (355, 1700, 1702)

2. God created them male and female.

3. God created people to know, love, and serve him. (51, 356, 357, 1719-21, 1726)

D. SACREDNESS OF HUMAN LIFE (2258)

1. Respect for ourselves

2. Respect for others

3. Respect for all life

### III. LIVING IN GOD'S WORLD

#### A. FAMILY

Col. 3:18-21,  
Acts 3:25, (764,  
1934-35, 2204-05)

1. All families are special.
2. We first learn about love and about God in the family.
3. We first learn to pray in the family.
4. Families are important in our world and in our Church.

#### B. CHURCH

1. Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist make us members of the Church. (1265)
2. The Church is the people of God.
3. The parish is where God's people gather as a family to worship. (1180-81, 1198-99)

#### C. SCHOOL

1. We learn more about God and the world in school.
2. We learn to cooperate with others in school.

#### D. COMMUNITY

Lk. 3:11, Acts 2:42-47,  
Jas. 2:15-16,  
1 Jn 1:7, (1803, 2447)

1. We learn to share with others in community.
  - a. Feed the hungry.
  - b. Clothe the naked.
  - c. Care for the sick.
  - d. Pray for the dead.

2. In and with community we can try to make the world more peaceful.

a. Forgive others.

(1850, 1871)

b. Practice acts of kindness.

#### IV. GOD THE SON: JESUS CHRIST

A. SECOND PERSON OF THE TRINITY

(262, 663)

B. JESUS' LIFE

1. Birth and Childhood

a. Annunciation

Lk. 1:26-38

1) Jesus - name given by angel;  
means "God saves"

2) Jesus is the Son of God;  
St. Joseph is his foster father

b. Nativity

Mt. 1:18 - 2:15,  
Lk. 2:1-20, (525)

1) Birth in Bethlehem

2) Angels appeared to Shepherds

3) Visit of the Magi

4) Flight into Egypt

c. Life in Nazareth

Lk. 2:41-52, (527-34)

1) Holy Family

2) Finding in the Temple

3) Hidden Life

## 2. Jesus' Public Life

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. Baptism by St. John the Baptist        | Mt. 3:13-17,<br>Mk. 1:9-11, Lk. 3:21-22<br>(541-46)  |
| b. Call of the apostles and the disciples | Mt. 4:18-22,<br>Mk. 1:16-20, Jn. 1:35-51             |
| c. Jesus as Messiah                       |  |
| d. Jesus as miracle worker and healer     | Mt. 4:23-25, Mk. 2:1-12;<br>Mk. 8:22-26, Lk. 8:49-56 |
| e. Jesus as Savior                        | Rom. 5:6-11  |
| f. Jesus is Lord                          | 1Cor. 12:3, (209)                                    |

**V. MARY**

## A. TITLES OF MARY

- |                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Mother of Jesus      | Lk. 1:26-27,<br>(488-95, 501) |
| 2. Mother of the Church | (963-72)                      |

## B. DAYS IN HONOR OF MARY

September	8	Feast of the Birth of Mary
October	7	Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary
November	19	Our Lady of Divine Providence
December	8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
December	12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
January	1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

C. PRAYERS TO MARY

1. The *Hail Mary*
2. The *Rosary*

**VI. LITURGICAL YEAR**

A. SUNDAY - the Lord's Day is the day on which we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection. (1171, 1343, 2177)  
It is the heart of the Church's life.

B. ORDINARY TIME: liturgical color is green: hope, growth, life

C. ADVENT (524)

1. Liturgical color is purple: preparation, sorrow for sin, repentance
2. Period of four weeks of preparation for the birth of Jesus, Christmas
3. Symbol: Advent Wreath
  - a. The circle of greens reminds us that God has no beginning and has no end.
  - b. There are four candles - three purple and one pink
  - c. One candle is lit each week.

D. CHRISTMAS

1. Liturgical color is white: joy, glory, innocence
2. Story of Jesus' Birth Mt. 1:18 - 2:23

## VII. SAINTS, FEASTS, AND SPECIAL PEOPLE

Special days to honor saints are ranked and celebrated in different degrees.

*Solemnity:* liturgies celebrating events, beliefs, and personages of principal importance and universal significance in salvation history

*Feast:* liturgies of major importance

*Memorial:* liturgies celebrating minor events in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of saints significant to a local country, church or religious community.

September	21	Feast of St. Matthew
October	1	Memorial of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus (St. Therese, the Little Flower)
October	2	Memorial of the Guardian Angels
October	4	Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi
October	31	Vigil of All Saints (Hallowed Eve or Holy Evening)
November	1	Solemnity of All Saints
November	2	All Souls Day
November	3	St. Martin de Porres
December	6	St. Nicholas
		Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday in the Octave of Christmas)
January	4	Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
January	5	Feast of St. John Neumann
January	6	Solemnity of the Epiphany (or the Sunday between January 2 and January 8)
		Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

(Sunday after January 6)

**VIII. PRAYER AND WORSHIP****A. PRAYER**Mt. 6:5-15, (2564,  
2697-04, 2742-45)

## 1. Definition

- a. Listening to God
- b. Talking to God
- c. Sometimes just being still with God

## 2. Traditional Prayers

- a. Sign of the Cross (2157)
- b. Our Father Mt. 6:7-15, (2792-93, 2801)
- c. Hail Mary Lk. 1:26-38
- d. Doxology (Glory be...)
- e. Simple Grace before and after meals (2698)
- f. Simple Morning Offering (2698)
- g. Angel of God
- h. Introduce the Rosary

## 3. Personal Prayer

- a. Spontaneous prayers of praise
- b. Spontaneous prayers of intercession
- c. Spontaneous prayers of thanksgiving

- d. Spontaneous prayers of sorrow
- B. WORSHIP - foster full, conscious and active participation in liturgy by becoming familiar with key phrases in the Mass
1. Response to the Reading - "Thanks be to God."
  2. Response to the Gospel - "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."
  3. Responses - "...and also with you." and "Amen."
  4. Become familiar with phrases from the Creed

## IX. SACRAMENTALS

(1667-79)

- A. HOLY WATER (1238)
- B. HOLY OILS (Oil of Catechumens and Chrism) (695, 1237)
- C. CROSS / CRUCIFIX
- D. SIGN OF THE CROSS
- E. BLESSED CANDLES (697)
- F. BLESSED MEDALS
- G. ROSARY

## X. SOCIAL JUSTICE

*"The commitment to human life and dignity, to human rights and solidarity, is a calling all Catholic educators must share with their students. It is not a vocation for a few religion teachers, but a challenge for every Catholic educator and catechist."*

**Sharing Catholic Social Teaching Challenges and Directions, USCC, 1998, p. 7**

### Major Themes:

**The Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

**Call to Family, Community and Participation**

**Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person**

**Care for God's Creation**

A. AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

1. Foster a willingness to share.
2. Participate in Thanksgiving and Christmas activities for the needy.

B. AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO CARE FOR ALL OF CREATION

*Catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.*

**Sharing Catholic Social Teaching Challenges and Directions, USCC, 1998, p. 6**

For further ideas, see **From the Ground Up: Teaching Catholic Social Principles in Elementary Schools**, NCEA, 1999.

# *Second Semester*

**I. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Rom. 5:1-5

**A. THE THIRD PERSON OF THE TRINITY****B. THE ONE WHO LIVES WITHIN US AND GIVES US THE GIFT OF GRACE**Lk. 3:15-16, 21-22,  
Rom. 8:14-17,  
2 Cor. 1:21-221. We receive the Holy Spirit for the first time at  
Baptism.

(1265-70)

2. The Holy Spirit is the gift of God's love to us.

1 Jn. 4:7-13, (733-35)

**C. THE ONE WHO HELPS US TO DO THE RIGHT THING**(1827, 1939-42, 2318,  
2319, 2415-18)

1. Helps us respect ourselves

2. Helps us respect others

3. Helps us care for all creation

4. Helps us in our prayer

Rom. 8: 26-27

5. Helps us to tell the truth, to obey, to forgive

**II. SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION****A. BAPTISM**Mt. 28:16-20,  
Lk. 3:21-22, Eph. 4:1-6

1. Effects

(1262-65)

a. Forgives all sin

b. We are born again as children of God.

(1213)

c. We become temples of the Holy Spirit.

## 2. Symbols

- a. Water (1238)
- b. Oils (Oil of Catechumens and Chrism) (695, 1237)
- c. Sign of the Cross (1235)
- d. White Garment (1243)
- e. Candle (697)

## 3. Words (1240)

"*Name*, I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

## 4. Minister (1256)

- a. Ordinary minister - bishop, priest, deacon
- b. Case of necessity - any person who has  
the right intention

**B. CONFIRMATION**

- 1. The Holy Spirit gives us special strength. (1285)
- 2. Chrism signifies the Holy Spirit. (1289)

**C. EUCHARIST**

- 1. Sacrament of Christian Initiation (1322)
- 2. Sacrament of love and a sign of unity (1323, 1380)

**III. MARY****A. TITLES OF MARY**

1. Mary is the Mother of God Jn. 19:25-27
2. Mary is the Mother of the Church
3. Mary is our Mother Lk. 1:26-38, 46-56  
(966, 968-69)

#### B. DAYS IN HONOR OF MARY

February	11	Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes
March	25	Solemnity of the Annunciation
May	31	Feast of the Visitation
July	16	Memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
August	15	Solemnity of the Assumption

#### C. MAY DEVOTIONS

1. In the Church, the entire month of May is dedicated to Mary.  
Traditional color is light blue
2. Special activities
  - a. Make a shrine in the classroom and/or at home
    - 1) Statue or picture of Mary
    - 2) Rosary
    - 3) Flowers
  - b. Pray the Rosary
  - c. Encourage the family Rosary

## IV. LITURGICAL YEAR

### A. SEASONS

## 1. Lent (1095)

- a. Time of preparation for Easter
- b. From Ash Wednesday to Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday
- c. Liturgical color is purple: repentance, sorrow for sin

## 2. Holy Week

- a. Palm Sunday
- b. Holy Thursday
- c. Good Friday
- d. Holy Saturday

## 3. Easter

Mt. 28:1-15,  
Mk. 16:1-8, Lk. 24:1-12,  
Jn. 20: 1-10

- a. Easter Sunday: liturgical color is white for joy, glory, innocence
- b. Ascension Thursday: liturgical color is white
- c. Pentecost: liturgical color is red for the Holy Spirit

Mt. 28: 16-20,  
Mk. 16: 19-20,  
Lk. 24: 50-53,  
Acts 1:6-12  
Acts 2:1-4

## B. SAINTS, FEASTS, AND SPECIAL PEOPLE

February	3	Memorial of St. Blase
March	3	Feast of Saint Katharine Drexel
March	17	Memorial of St. Patrick
March	19	Solemnity of St. Joseph

April	29	Memorial of St. Catherine of Siena
May	3	Feast of Saints Philip and James
July	26	Memorial of Saints Joachim and Ann

## V. PRAYER AND WORSHIP

### A. PRAYER

#### 1. Traditional

- a. See *First Semester*
- b. The *Way of the Cross*
- c. The *Rosary*

#### 2. Personal

- a. Spontaneous forms of prayer (See *First Semester*)
- b. Encourage various prayer expressions
  - 1) The "Jesus Prayer"
  - 2) Choral Speech (Praying in Common)
  - 3) Song and Gesture
  - 4) Meditation

### B. WORSHIP

1. Entrance Song - we gather as a community ready to celebrate
2. Responsorial Psalm - the Church's response to God's WORD
3. Review *Liturgy of the Word* responses (see *First Semester*)
4. Become familiar with the phrases from the *Creed*
5. Memorial Acclamations
  - a. "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."

- b. "Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory."
  
- c. "When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim  
your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory."
  
- d. "Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free,  
You are the Savior of the world."

### C. SACRAMENTALS

- 1. Blessed Ashes
- 2. Palms
- 3. Sign of the Cross
- 4. Cross / Crucifix
- 5. Paschal Candle
- 6. Blessed statues, pictures, icons
- 7. The Rosary

## VI. SOCIAL JUSTICE

*"The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society.... In this time of widespread violence and diminished respect for human life and dignity in our country and around the world, the Gospel of life and the biblical call to justice need to be proclaimed and shared with new clarity, urgency, and energy."*

**Sharing Catholic Social Teaching Challenges and Directions**, USCC, 1998, p. 4

***Major Themes:***

**Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

**Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**

**Solidarity of the Human Family**

A. AWARENESS OF THOSE WHO SUFFER HUNGER

1. Participate in the Holy Childhood Association (HCA),  
the Bishops's Relief Fund, Operation Rice Bowl
2. Encourage children to be more careful and not waste food

B. AWARENESS OF THE GOSPEL CALL TO BE PEACEMAKERS

1. At home
2. In school
3. In the community