

**St Robert Bellarmine Parish School of Religion
Curriculum Guide**

2014

This curriculum guide has been produced to help teachers in lesson planning each year.

It presents the main objectives for learning at each grade level based on those outlined in the Elementary Religion Curriculum Standard published by the Archdiocese of St Louis in 1999.

It presents, too, basic prayers for memorization at each grade level, factual information to be learned from Scripture and Church doctrine, and formative exercises, including familiarity with the saints. At each grade level, it is important that we give students an opportunity to express what they have learned through service, to put knowledge to work and to make a difference in the lives of our families.

This guide is not intended to stifle creativity, nor to restrict what is taught, but to help teachers discern what should be emphasized at each grade level and considered basic knowledge that should be attained before promotion to the next. Teachers are encouraged to embellish the learning experience through the use of games, song, story-telling, and crafts as appropriate for the different grade levels. Resources are available to help teachers develop their own creativity in the classroom.

“Safe Touch” is a program designed by the archdiocese to help children recognize the dignity that they possess as children of God, to realize that they have the right to say no to situations that make them feel physically threatened or uncomfortable, and to give them the information they need to be able to avoid or to stop these situations. Currently, only those trained specifically to do so may teach “Safe Touch”.

“God’s Own Making” is the only chastity program authorized for use in parish schools of religion in the Archdiocese of St Louis. Parish schools of religion are required to offer these classes and parental permission is required. “God’s Own Making” has three components:

1. Respect for the dignity of the human person.
2. Respect for differences.
3. Sexual relationships must be life-giving and love-giving.

Biology and physiology are left for instruction by the parents and are not to be addressed in the classroom.

This guide is a tool and may be altered as necessary. Teachers should feel free to offer their own experiences and opinions for consideration in order that the tool might serve the parish school optimally.

It is essential to remember that children learn in different ways and lesson plans should reflect the various learning styles. Service projects, participation in liturgy and different types of prayer, drama and skits, role-playing, song, and games can be invaluable to the learning experience and should be included as appropriate.

Grade One

1. Students will express an understanding and appreciation of God the Father as Creator.
2. Students will express an understanding of Jesus as Son of God and our brother and friend.
3. Students will describe the Holy Spirit as our Helper and Guide.
4. Students will identify the Trinity as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
5. Students will identify Mary as the Mother of Jesus and our Mother.
6. Students will define Baptism as joining the family of the Catholic Church.
7. Students will come to recognize the saints as our heroes in faith.
8. Students will recognize prayer as listening and talking to God and will participate in the traditional prayers of the Church,
9. Students will recognize the celebration of the Eucharist as the main prayer of the Church.

Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the fall of the year unless parent(s) decline.

The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:

Sign of the Cross	Our Father
Hail Mary	Glory Prayer
Guardian Angel Prayer	Spontaneous Prayer

The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:

Creation
Abraham & Sarah are given a son

The children will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:

The Annunciation	The Nativity
The Good Samaritan	The Crucifixion
The Resurrection	

The children will recognize the following saints:

Mary the Mother of God
Joseph
Anne and St Joachim

The children will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:

Abraham	Creator	Mass
Advent	Crucifixion	Pentecost
Angel	Easter	Respect
Annunciation	Eucharist	Resurrection
Ascension	Faith	Sacraments
Baptism	Gospel	Saints
Bethlehem	Hallowed	Samaritan
Bible	Holy Trinity	Sin
Christians	Jerusalem	Temple
Christmas	Law	Vocation
Church	Last Supper	
Commandments	Lent	

In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the children will:

Make greeting cards once a month to be delivered to shut-ins

Grade Two

1. Students will express a basic understanding of the word sacrament.
2. Students will express an understanding of the concept of sin
3. Students will express feelings of sorrow / contrition.
4. Students will relate Reconciliation to healing and forgiveness.
5. Students will express positive feelings toward their experience of celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation.
6. Students will express understanding of the Eucharist as meal, thanksgiving, and sacrifice.
7. Students will profess belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
8. Students will participate actively in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist as the community worship of the Church.

Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the fall of the year unless parent(s) decline.

The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:

Sign of the Cross

Glory Prayer

Our Father

Guardian Angel Prayer

Hail Mary

Act of Contrition

The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:

Moses and the Ten Commandments

The children will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:

The Parable of the Forgiving Father

Parable of the Sower and the Seed

The Story of the Last Supper

The children will recognize the following saints:

John the Baptist

Therese of Lisieux

Patrick

John Vianney

The children will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:

Absolution	Eucharistic minister	Liturgy of the Word
Almighty	Eucharistic Prayer	Lying
Anoint	Faith	Mass
Ascension	Galilee	Original Sin
Assembly	Godparents	Parable
Baptism	Gospel	Psalm
Believe	Grace	Reconciliation
Bible	Great Commandment	Savior
Catholics	Heaven	Sin
Confess	Holy	Soul
Confirmation	Holy Communion	Steal
Conscience	Honor	Trespass
Contrition	Hymn	Venial
Covenant	Kingdom of God	Worship
Disciple	Liturgy of the Eucharist	

In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the children will:

Make cards to congratulate the RCIA candidates and catechumens.

Children will work with their families in preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Grade Three

1. Students will identify the Church as the People of God.
2. Students will be able to describe events in the early history of the Church.
3. Students will relate the Pentecost Event and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early Church and express understanding that the Holy Spirit continues to be present in the Church and in individuals today.
4. Students will describe the Marks of the Church.
5. Students will recognize the structure of the liturgical year and its impact on liturgical celebrations.
6. Students will express understanding that the Mass is the great celebration of the Church.
7. Students will distinguish between the various vocations / ministries in the Church and will describe the hierarchy of the Church.
8. Students will begin to understand Church teaching on the communion of saints.

Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the fall of the year unless parent(s) decline.

The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:

Sign of the Cross
Our Father
Hail Mary
The Apostles Creed

Glory Prayer
Guardian Angel Prayer
Act of Contrition
The Rosary

The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:

The Call of Samuel
The Ten Commandments
The Exodus

The children will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:

The Call of the Apostles
The Passion, Death, and Resurrection
Pentecost

The children will recognize the following saints:

Francis of Assisi
Elizabeth
Mary Magdalen
Stephen
Juan Diego

Peter
Jerome
Frances Cabrini
Bernadette
Dorothy Day

The children will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:

Apostle	Good Friday	Old Testament
Apostles' Creed	Heaven	Ordinary Time
Blessed Sacrament	Hell	Patron saint
Chastity	Holy Family	Pentecost
Communion of Saints	Holy Orders	Prayers of Intercession
Conversion	Humility	Prayers of Petition
Covet	Incarnation	Sacraments of Initiation
Creed	Justice	Sanctifying grace
Diligence	Knowledge	Scripture
Divine Providence	Liturgy	Self-control
Easter	Love	Ten Commandments
Easter Triduum	Matrimony	Understanding
Faithfulness	Messiah	Wisdom
Feast	Miracle	Worship
Forgive	Nazareth	
Genesis	New Testament	

In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the children will:

Students will reach out in service to the community by making "booboo bunnies" at Easter for children in the emergency room at local hospital(s).

Grade Four

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Law of Love, the Beatitudes, and the Ten Commandments as guides for Christian living.
2. Students will identify the Laws of the Church
3. Students will act based on accepting responsibility for their choices.
4. Students will express knowledge and understanding of right and wrong, sin, the meaning of conscience, and virtue.
5. Students will read and recall Scripture passages related to forgiveness.
6. Students will express understanding and appreciation that through the Sacrament of Reconciliation they are truly forgiven.
7. Students will come to a basic understanding of the healing offered through the Anointing of the Sick.
8. Children will be introduced to the Liturgy of the Hours.
9. Students will respond to the Works of Mercy through actions and words.

Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the fall of the year unless parent(s) decline.

Children will participate in “God’s Own Making” with parent permission.

The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:

Sign of the Cross	Glory Prayer
Our Father	Guardian Angel Prayer
Hail Mary	Act of Contrition
The Apostles Creed	The Rosary and Its Mysteries
Hail Holy Queen	

Children should be able to recite from memory:

The Ten Commandments	The Precepts of the Church
The Corporal Works of Mercy	The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:

Moses and the Exodus
Samuel

The children will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:

The Sermon on the Mount
Jairus’s Daughter
The Women at the Empty Tomb
Doubting Thomas
Promise of the Holy Spirit and Pentecost

The children will recognize the following saints:

Thomas the Apostle
John the Apostle
Kateri Tekakwitha
John Bosco

Thomas More
Charles Lwanga and Companions
Joan of Arc
Martha and Mary

The children will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:

Anointing of the Sick	Free will	Paschal Mystery
Bear false witness	Generosity	Passover
Beatitudes	Hebrews	People of God
Body of Christ	Holy Orders	Pope
Calvary	Incarnation	Public Ministry of Jesus
Confirmation	Intellect	Rabbi
Conscience	Israelites	Sacraments of Healing
Corporal Works of Mercy	Joy	Sacraments of Service
Deliberate action	Liturgy of the Hours	Synagogue
Divine Revelation	Manna	Take in vain
Domestic Church	Messiah	Transubstantiation
Exodus	Ministry	Worship

In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the children will:

Assist pastor with communal Anointing of the Sick.

Understanding that God reaches out in love and forgiveness to all his people, and that he heals their hearts as well as their bodies, students will send prayers and cards/letters at Valentine's Day through Prison Ministry.

Grade Five

1. Students will have a basic understanding of the Bible's construction and begin to use it in the classroom.
2. Students will be able to identify the four evangelists.
3. Students will be able to explain the meaning of the sacraments and their communal dimension.
4. Students will be able to express a deeper understanding of the Marks of the Church.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the Eucharist as central to Catholic life.
6. Children will come to recognize the liturgical seasons and the colors that represent them.
7. Students will describe the celebration of the seven sacraments, participate in the sacramental life of the community, and identify the seven sacraments in terms of Initiation, Healing, and Service.
8. Students will be able to refer to and reflect upon Scripture texts relating to the sacraments and their institution by Christ.
9. Students will describe the sacraments as life-giving signs of God's gift of grace.
10. Students will use the Creed as a summary of Christian beliefs.
11. Students will identify the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as a means of helping them to make good moral decisions.
12. Students will identify and express positive feelings about the Church's teachings on peace and justice and respect life issues.

Children will participate in "Safe Touch" in the fall of the year unless parent(s) decline.

Children will participate in "God's Own Making" with parent permission.

Fifth grade students will receive Bibles in ceremony near the Feast of St Jerome. These Bibles are to be referenced and used in the classroom throughout the year and in subsequent years.

The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:

Sign of the Cross
Our Father
Hail Mary
The Apostles Creed
The Nicene Creed
Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Glory Prayer
Guardian Angel Prayer
Act of Contrition
The Rosary and Its Mysteries
Hail Holy Queen

Children should be able to recite from memory:

The Ten Commandments	The Precepts of the Church
The Corporal Works of Mercy	The Spiritual Works of Mercy
The Holydays of Obligation	The Beatitudes
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit	

The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:

Covenant with Abraham
Passover

The children will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:

The Calming of the Sea
Passion, Death, and Resurrection
Pentecost

The children will recognize the following saints:

Pope John XXIII	Katherine Drexel
Pope John Paul II	Maximillian Kolbe
Jerome	Damian of Molokai
Robert Bellarmine	Rose of Lima

The children will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:

Actual grace	Holy Orders	Pentateuch
Advocate	Holy Spirit	Pentecost
Annunciation	Holy Trinity	Perjury
Ascension	Hope	Piety
Attributes of God	Incarnation	Psalms
Beatitudes	Inspiration of the Bible	Reconciliation
Charism	Integrity	Resurrection
Chastity	Liturgical Year	Revelation
Chrism	Liturgy	Sacraments
Christ	Marks of the Church	Sacraments of Service
Church	Mass	Sacred Scripture
Confirmation	Matrimony	Sacred Tradition
Conscience	Meekness	Sacrifice
Consecrate	Messiah	Sanctifying grace
Covenant	Mercy	Scandal
Creed	Moral decision	Sexuality
Epistle	Moral virtues	Sin
Evangelist	Mortal sin	Soul
Faith	Nicene Creed	Suicide
Gospel	Paschal Mystery	Venial sin
Grace	Passover	Virtues

In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the children will:

Want to assist in liturgy as servers or in choir.

Pray for the RCIA candidates and make cards to welcome them into the Church community.

Grade Six

1. Students will be able to describe the structure of the Bible, locate passages, and name the various literary forms in the Scriptures.
2. Students will identify the Patriarchs, Prophets, and Kings of the Old Testament and describe their contribution to the growth of our Faith.
3. Students will describe the meaning of “covenant” in human experience and the special meaning of “covenant” between God and His people.
4. Students will show appreciation for the Bible as the inspired Word of God.
5. Students will apply the teachings and lessons of Scripture to their own lives.
6. Students will identify Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament Covenant.
7. Students will be able to articulate the role of Mary in the Church.
8. Students will begin to understand the differences in the vocations.

Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the fall of the year unless parent(s) decline.

Children will participate in “God’s Own Making” with parent permission.

The children should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:

Sign of the Cross	Glory Prayer
Our Father	Guardian Angel Prayer
Hail Mary	Act of Contrition
The Apostles Creed	The Rosary and Its Mysteries
The Nicene Creed	Hail Holy Queen
Prayer to the Holy Spirit	

Children will experience prayer of meditation.

Children should be able to recite from memory:

The Ten Commandments	The Precepts of the Church
The Corporal Works of Mercy	The Spiritual Works of Mercy
The Holydays of Obligation	The Beatitudes
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit	The Seven Sacraments

The children will recognize the following stories from the Old Testament:

Ruth and Naomi	Babylonian Exile
Baruch’s Challenge	Passover
David	

The children will recognize the following stories from the New Testament:

The Confession of Peter	The Annunciation
The Visitation	The Parable of the Great Feast
The Lord's Prayer	

The children will recognize the following saints:

Thomas Aquinas	Monica
Scholastica and Benedict	Alphonse de Liguori
Timothy	Josephine Bakhita
Mary Magdalene	Marguerite Marie Alacoque

The children will be able to explain the following vocabulary words at a level appropriate to their age:

Absolution	Holiness	Reparation
Adoration	Holy Orders	Revelation
Annunciation	Holy Trinity	Sabbath
Baptism	Hope	Sacrament
Bible	Hospice Care	Salvation
Canon	Idolatry	Sanctify
Canonization	Incarnation	Sanctifying Grace
Charism	Knowledge	Self-Control
Chastity	Lord	Sexuality
Confirmation	Marks of the Church	Shema
Conjugal love	Matrimony	Stewardship Theological
Conscience	Meditation	Temptation
Consecrate	Modesty	Theological Virtues
Counsel	Morality	Unleavened bread
Covenant	Mortal Sin	Venial Sin
Creed	Natural law	Vow
Divine Revelation	Ordination	Wonder and Awe
Epiphany	Original Sin	Works of Mercy
Epistle	Parable	
Eucharist	Paschal Mystery	
Evangelist	Passion	
Exile	Parable	
Faith	Proverb	
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Prudence	
Gospel	Redemption	

In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the children will:

Prepare Easter baskets for the elderly clients of St Elizabeth Adult Day Care at Saint Robert Bellarmine
Help to congratulate first communicants with cards and/or small gifts.

Grade Seven

1. Students will express a basic understanding of Jesus, his life and teachings.
2. Students will recognize the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus as their Savior and model for moral living.
3. Students will be able to identify the parts of the Mass and explain each of them in relation to each other.
4. Students will apply knowledge of the structure and images of the Catholic Church.
5. Students will be able to identify the local ordinary and the pope.
6. Students will recognize the RCIA and its structure.
7. Students will trace the history of the Catholic Church from apostolic times through the twentieth century.

Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the fall of the year unless parent(s) decline.

Students will participate in “God’s Own Making” with parent permission.

Students should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:

Sign of the Cross	Glory Prayer
Our Father	Guardian Angel Prayer
Hail Mary	Act of Contrition
The Apostles Creed	The Rosary and Its Mysteries
The Nicene Creed	Hail Holy Queen
Prayer to the Holy Spirit	The Magnificat

Students will experience prayer of meditation.

Students will understand concept of adoration.

Students should be able to recite from memory:

The Ten Commandments	The Precepts of the Church
The Corporal Works of Mercy	The Spiritual Works of Mercy
The Holydays of Obligation	The Beatitudes
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit	The Seven Sacraments

In response to God’s love and the message they have learned, the students will:

Conduct a Christmas bingo for the residents at the Sunshine Home on Hemsath Rd.

Congratulate newly confirmed and their families by preparing and serving a dinner in celebration.

Grade Eight

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Commandments, Beatitudes, virtue, and Catholic moral teachings.
2. Students will apply knowledge of Catholic teachings to moral decision making.
3. Students will choose to commit themselves to membership in the Catholic Church especially through the sacrament of Confirmation.
4. Students will express openness to the Holy Spirit and a deeper understanding of the working of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
5. Students will share time, talent, and treasure in service to family, local parish, and greater community.
6. Students will articulate elements of and witness to their Catholic identity.
7. Students will be able to explain use of statues, icons, and other sacred images by Christians.
8. Students will have some familiarity with the Liturgy of the Hours.
9. Students will understand the importance of their lifestyle choices in vocation and career.

Children will participate in “Safe Touch” in the fall of the year unless parent(s) decline.

Students will participate in “God’s Own Making” with parent permission.

Students will work with their families and sponsors in preparation for the reception of Confirmation. This work will be visible to and supported by the entire parish.

The students should be able to recite and have a basic understanding of the following prayers:

Sign of the Cross	Glory Prayer
Our Father	Guardian Angel Prayer
Hail Mary	Act of Contrition
The Apostles Creed	The Rosary and Its Mysteries
The Nicene Creed	Hail Holy Queen
Prayer to the Holy Spirit	The Magnificat

Students will experience prayer of meditation.

Students will understand concept of adoration.

Students will be introduced to contemplation.

Students should be able to recite from memory:

The Ten Commandments

The Corporal Works of Mercy

The Holydays of Obligation

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Precepts of the Church

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Beatitudes

The Seven Sacraments

In response to God's love and the message they have learned, the students will:

Conduct a Pro-Life Baby Shower in January near the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, collecting items for mothers in crises.

In response to the love they have been shown, students will take part in various forms of service to family, parish, and greater community.