

# Developmental Benchmarks for Seventh Grade:

Building on the foundation of learning and practice developed through Grade 6, the goals for the formation of our children in Seventh Grade includes all previous learning plus...

**Scripture:** *During Grade 7, our children will come to understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word that speaks to them. They will...*

- Be able to explain the meaning of "salvation history"
- Know that there are 46 books in the Catholic Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament
- Recognize that the Bible contains various literary forms: history, poetry, lists, prayer, letters, and parables
- Write their own proverb, poem, psalm, parable, epistle or historical account of God acting in their lives
- Be able to discuss how the Sunday readings apply to their lives
- Give examples of modern day prophets and share ways they might serve as prophets in today's world
- Be able to identify the following people and explain their role in salvation history:
  - Mary
  - Joseph
  - Jesus
  - John the Baptist
  - Herod the Great
  - The Twelve Apostles
  - Judas Iscariot
  - Peter
  - Paul
  - Stephen
- Be able to discuss these New Testament events and explain their significance in salvation history:
  - Birth of Jesus
  - Jesus' Baptism
  - Jesus calling his apostles to help him spread the Good News
  - Jesus' miracles
  - Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection
  - Pentecost/ the Holy Spirit
  - The institution of the Church
  - The institution of the Sacraments
- Be able to retell the following Bible stories:
  - The Story of Job (Job 38:1-41)
  - The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 50:4-9)
  - The Story of Lazarus being raised from the dead (John 11:17-44)
  - Peter's Declaration of Jesus (Matthew 16: 13-20)
  - The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5-13)
  - The Story of the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36)
  - The Resurrection Stories
  - The Ascension (Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1:3-11)
  - God has Given Each of us Gifts to Share (Romans 12:1-8)
- Listen to/Have heard the following Bible Stories/Passages:
  - Psalm 23 "Shepherd me O God", Psalm 25 "To you, O Lord" Psalm 27 "The Lord is my Light", Psalm 40 "Here I am", Psalm 51 "Be Merciful", Psalm 63 "My Soul is Thirsting", Psalm 91 "Be with Me", Psalm 103 "The Lord is Kind and Merciful", Psalm 118 "This is the Day"
  - "I am the Vine.." (John 15:1-17)
  - The Holy Trinity (Matthew 28:19, John 10:30, Galatians 4:6)
  - Love Your Enemies (Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-36)
  - Love One Another (1 John 3:11-18)
  - Faith versus Good Works (Ephesians 2:1-10)

**Doctrine:** *During Grade 7, our children will know and understand these basic teachings of the Catholic faith:*

- Examine the Nicene Creed and explain each article of faith this creed professes
- Define and discuss the term "redemption" as used by the Catholic Church
- Define and discuss the term "grace" as used by the Catholic Church

- Be able to discuss how the “grace” received through the Sacraments strengthens us to live life with greater peace, love and compassion
- Be able to discuss the role of the Apostles before and after the death and resurrection of Jesus
- Be able to explain the steps involved in developing an “informed moral conscience”
- Know that the unique origin of the Catholic Church is rooted in Jesus’ commissioning of Peter to be the head of the Apostles and unifier of the Church
- Be familiar with some of the key similarities and differences between the Roman Catholic church and various Protestant denominations

**Sacraments:** *During Grade 7, our children will begin to know and appreciate the importance of Sacraments and that Liturgy and Eucharist is central to our Catholic Faith. They will...*

- Be able to explain that the Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrates God’s healing and forgiveness of sins
- Be able to discuss the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick as an opportunity to bring Jesus’ healing comfort and strength to those who are seriously ill, elderly or in danger of death
- Be able to discuss Marriage and Holy Orders as the Sacraments of commitment in which the Church celebrates two special ways that people serve others by sharing their gifts
- Explain that the word “ordain” means to “set aside” in order to serve the Church in a certain way, as a deacon, priest or bishop
- Be able to describe ways to prepare for the celebration of the Mass (e.g., reflect on readings prior to Mass, abide by rules of fasting, dress nicely, pray, be silent)
- Attend and participate at Mass regularly and prayerfully be able to participate in the following ways:
  - Know which books the First and Second Readings were from and be able to remember what the readings (or some part of them) were about
  - Be able to share something they remember about the Gospel reading and the homily
  - Be able to discuss how the readings apply to their lives
  - Be involved in the liturgy in some other way (reading, helping set up or clean up, singing, altar server, ushering, greeting people)
- Participate in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist

**Prayer & Spirituality:** *By the end of 7th Grade, our children will...*

- Be able to explain the meaning of the seven petitions in the Lord’s Prayer
- Plan and implement a daily program of personal prayer in Advent and personal prayer, almsgiving and fasting in Lent
- Discuss how trust in God is the basis for prayers of petition
- Practice silent reflection on selected religious themes and share and/or record their thoughts
- Know and practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Be able to discuss contemporary literature and music that has a spiritual message
- Be supported to set aside some time each day for prayer

**Community:** *By the end of 7th Grade, our children will understand that they are part of a larger faith community or family – the parish community of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception AND the larger Catholic Church. They will*

- Be able to describe the mission of Catholic laity in the world
- Be able to discuss the historical contributions of various religious orders in the US and world as well as their present-day efforts to carry out their mission
- Be able to evaluate issues of homelessness, hunger, poverty and illiteracy found in their community in light of the Church’s teachings
- Be able to identify and explain “The Precepts of the Catholic Church” (CCC 2041-2043)

**Service:** *By the end of Grade 7, our children will...*

- Be able to discuss Jesus' call for them to serve others in light of the Beatitudes
- Participate in one or more group service projects that address global issues
- Be able to identify and discuss the difficulties and challenges in today's culture of putting their faith into action (service)
- Identify how they can use their own unique talents to serve others
- Research and discuss the role of service in the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders

**Catholic Prayers to be able to recite by themselves:**

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Grace, Act of Contrition, Angel of God, Fatima Prayer, Hail, Holy Queen, all mysteries of the Rosary, Apostles Creed, The Nicene Creed, Morning Offering, Prayer of Saint Francis and...**

**Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

**Praying with the Psalms in the Bible**