

# Developmental Benchmarks for Eighth Grade:

Building on the foundation of learning and practice developed through Grade 7, the goals for the formation of our children in Eighth Grade includes all previous learning plus...

**Scripture:** *During Grade 8, our children will come to understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word that speaks to them. They will...*

- Be able to locate any chapter and verse of the Bible upon request
- Be able to explain what it means to believe we are saved by Jesus
- Understand that the Bible is a collection of many books inspired by God describing the history of salvation
- Describe the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives
- Be able to retell the following Bible stories:
  - 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)
  - Rejoice and Give Thanks (Philippians 4:4-9)
- Listen to/Have heard the following Bible Stories/Passages:
  - Come to Me and Rest (Matthew 11:25-30)
  - A Time for Everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)
  - Cardinal Virtues (Wisdom 8:7)
  - True Love and Theological Virtues (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)
  - New Life in Christ (Colossians 3:1-17)
  - I can do All Things (Philippians 4:13)
  - Act Justly, Walk Humbly (Micah 6:6-8)
  - Rejoice and Give Thanks (Philippians 4:4-9)

**Doctrine:** *During Grade 8, our children will know and understand these basic teachings of the Catholic faith. They will...*

- Discuss the implications for their lives of believing in Jesus as the Son of God and their Savior
- Discuss the courage and faith of Mary as she said "yes" to the Angel Gabriel and what her example means for them in their lives
- Discuss the meaning and implications of our belief that the desire for God is rooted deep within every person and that God never ceases to draw us to Himself (CCC 27)

**Sacraments:** *During Grade 8, 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...*

- Understand that sacramental actions and symbols originated in Jewish rituals
- Identify a sign for each Sacrament and describe what each Sacrament celebrates (e.g., Baptism is water, Confirmation is Oil of Chrism or a Dove, Eucharist is Bread & Wine)
- Be able to briefly explain as well as participate in the rituals and symbols associated with the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost

- Know the five movements/sections of the Mass and their purpose (Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Communion Rite, Concluding Rite)
- If possible, participate in a Seder Meal and discuss similarities between the Seder and Eucharist
- 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 8th Grade, our children will be able to...*

- Evaluate their practice of personal prayer and describe how they will make changes that would strengthen their prayer life and relationship with God
- Understand and be able to discuss how perseverance in prayer is a necessity for Christian life (Give examples of it from the lives of the Saints)
- Know and explain each of the Theological Virtues (Faith, Hope, Charity)
- Know and explain how the practice of each of the Moral (Cardinal) Virtues strengthens their spiritual life
- Be able to share opportunities and ways they practice the Moral (Cardinal) Virtues of Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude in their lives
- Suggest experiences in people's everyday lives that could be celebrated through some ritual that honors the sacredness of the occasion (e.g., birth, death, family reunion, moving into a new home, recovery from illness, a new job, graduation, anniversary)
- Be supported to set aside some time each day for uninterrupted prayer
- Discuss Chastity as the virtue that provides a way for a person to honor their sexuality as a gift from God.

**Community:** *By the end of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, our children will understand that they are a part of a larger faith community or family – the parish of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception AND the larger Catholic Church. They will...*

- Be familiar with the roles and mission of deacons, priests, bishops, archbishops, cardinals and the Pope
- Be able to discuss strategies for dealing with thoughts and actions that are in conflict with the Church's teachings
- Identify ways they can be involved in appropriate Catholic responses to situations of social injustice in their community
- Explain their responsibility to call others to know, love and understand Jesus

**Service:** *By the end of Grade 8, our children will...*

- Be able to discuss what it means for a Catholic to "Walk the Talk"
- Discuss service to "neighbor" in light of the gospel story of the Good Samaritan
- Participate in and report on service projects they are involved in – including ones that serve the larger community (e.g., Habitat Humanity, Food Pantry, etc.)
- Be able to share what their participation in service projects has taught them
- Define "good stewardship" and explain how it is a way of putting their faith into action

- Be able to identify and discuss the difficulties and challenges in today's culture of putting their faith into action (service)

***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, Praying with the Psalms AND**

**Divine Mercy Chaplet**

(Recite on Rosary Beads)

*On the "Our Father" Bead:*

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

*On the Ten Small Beads of Each Decade*

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

*Repeat for the remaining decades*

*Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)*

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

**ommunity:**