

Faith and Life Series
22 Week Curriculum Outline

Grade 8
Our Life in the Church

Third Edition

Grade 8: Our Life in the Church

22 Week Parish Curriculum

THEME: The history of the Church - its founding by Christ, its birth and life in the Holy Spirit; the marks of the one, true Church; the Fathers and Doctors of the Church; the saints and the role of the religious communities in Church history. The structure and hierarchy of the Church as Jesus planned. The role of the Magisterium, the clergy, the religious and the laity, and our own vocations in relation to the world in which we live.

Weeks 1-10

❖ **Part I: The Church**

- ❖ Chapters 1-13: Christ's plan for the Church's structure and its necessary attributes; the Church's teaching authority, structure, and Sacraments. The Communion of Saints and the early Church: martyrs, Church Fathers, saints and Mary.

Weeks 11-19

❖ **Part II: The Christian in the World**

- ❖ Chapters 14-22: Holiness, virtue, vice, and vocation. Religious and laity, Holy Orders, Marriage, and family life; call to holiness.

Weeks 20-21

❖ **Part III: The Means to Fulfill Our Call to Holiness**

- ❖ Chapters 23-24: Prayer and the Sacraments.

Weeks 22

❖ **Part IV: The End of Christian Life**

- ❖ Chapters 25-26: Death, Judgment, the end of the world.

AIM: To help eighth-grade students know and love the Church as Christ's Body, to better understand the nature of their life in the Church, and respond to the teaching of the Magisterium as the sure voice of Jesus, so that they may be strengthened in their lives in the Church and be able to live lives of Christian holiness within the world more fully.

Grade 8: Our Life in the Church

Part I: The Church

Week 1: The Lord's Presence

Ch. 1: Christ's Abiding Presence

- a. Jesus is present in the Word of God and in a special way in the Eucharist
- b. Jesus is present in his Church

Week 2: Pentecost / Types / Great Commission / Four Marks of the Church

Ch. 2: The Birth of the Church

- a. The Father and Son sent the Holy Spirit upon the apostles at Pentecost
- b. Jesus established and sustains the Church by his presence, teaching, and the formation of his followers

Ch. 3: The Nature of the Church

- a. God gave us many prefigurements and images of the Church
- b. Christ's Church has four marks and was instituted to spread the Gospel and dispense grace

Week 3: Revelation / Councils / Infallibility

Ch. 4: The Teaching Church

- a. The sacred deposit of the Word of God consists of Scripture and Tradition
- b. Ecumenical councils are called to clarify Church teaching
- c. The Church's understanding of the deposit of faith is contributed to by the Popes, Church Fathers, and Doctors of the Church.

Ch. 5: Authority in the Church: Teaching and Governing

- a. The hierarchy of the Church participates in the duties of teaching, sanctifying, and governing the Church
- b. The Magisterium of the Church exercises the gift of infallibility, which protects the Church from error

Week 4: Hierarchy of the Church

Ch. 6: The Visible Hierarchical Church

- a. Jesus gave the Church the mission to evangelize all nations
- b. Apostolic Succession
- c. The Church is divided into dioceses that are each led by a bishop
- d. The bishop is assisted by priests and deacons

Week 5: Baptism / Eucharist / Confirmation / Liturgy / Liturgical Year

Ch. 7: The Church Sanctifying: Sacraments of Membership

- a. The sacraments of initiation bring us into the Church and give us full participation in her

Ch. 8: The Church Sanctifying: Worship

- a. The liturgy is the official public worship that the Church offers to God
- b. The liturgical year follows the life of Christ

Grade 8: Our Life in the Church

Part I: The Church (Continued)

Week 6: Blessed Virgin Mary

Ch. 9: Mary - Mother of the Church

- a. Annunciation
- b. Immaculate Conception
- c. Perpetual Virginity
- d. Assumption
- e. Mediatrix of grace

Week 7: Communion of Saints

Ch. 10: The Communion of Saints

- a. The living and deceased members of Christ's Mystical Body
- b. Church Militant
- c. Church Suffering
- d. Church Triumphant

Week 8: Church History - The First Thousand Years

Ch. 11: Saints in Our History: The First Thousand Years

- a. Early Church
- b. Legalization of Christianity
- c. Heresies
- d. Monastic Communities
- e. Islam, schism, and corruption

Week 9: Church History - The Second Thousand Years

Ch. 12: Saints in Our History: The Second Thousand Years

- a. Monastic reform
- b. Combating Islam
- c. New religious orders
- d. Protestant Reformation
- e. Modernism
- f. New Evangelization

Week 10: Non-Catholic Christians / Jews / Muslims / Ecumenism

Ch. 13: Separated Brethren

- a. Non-Catholic Christians
- b. Jews
- c. Muslims
- d. Ecumenism

Grade 8: Our Life in the Church

Part II: The Christian in the World

Week 11: Holiness / Concupiscence / Seven Capital Sins

Ch. 14: The Universal Call to Holiness

- a. Everyone is called to holiness
- b. Concupiscence is the inclination to sin
- c. Seven capital sins
 - i. Pride
 - ii. Covetousness
 - iii. Lust
 - iv. Anger
 - v. Gluttony
 - vi. Envy
 - vii. Sloth

Week 12: Cardinal Virtues / Moral Virtues / Theological Virtues

Ch. 15: The Life of Virtue

- a. Virtue is the disposition of the soul to do good
- b. Cardinal virtues enable us to act rightly in our relationship with other men and created goods
- c. The moral virtues help us to counteract our inclination to the seven capital sins
- d. The theological virtues are supernatural virtues that are directed toward God

Week 13: Spiritual Works of Mercy / Corporal Works of Mercy / Beatitudes

Ch. 16: The Works of Mercy and Happiness

- a. The Spiritual Works of Mercy look to the spiritual needs of others
- b. The Corporal Works of Mercy look to the physical needs of others
- c. Beatitude is the state of happiness for those who live the Christian life

Week 14: Vocations

Ch. 17: Vocations: The Religious Life and the Priesthood

- a. God has a plan for every person
- b. Religious life, by which one imitates Christ through the three evangelical counsels, is the highest state of life
- c. Holy Orders is the vocation in which a man is called to serve the people of God.

Week 15: Laity

Ch. 18: The Lay Apostolate

- a. The laity are called to serve God in the world in their own particular manner
- b. The laity are called to use their wealth, sexuality, and freedom for Christ and the good of the Church
- c. The laity are either single or married
- d. Some members of the laity live their vocation in an organized lay apostolate or secular institute

Week 16: Marriage / Family

Ch. 19: Marriage and the Family

- a. Marriage is ordered to the unity of the spouses
- b. Marriage is ordered to the creation of new life
- c. Marriage is a sacrament
- d. A husband and wife form a new community: a family.

Grade 8: Our Life in the Church

Part II: The Christian in the World (Continued)

Week 17: Society

Ch. 20: The Christian in the World

- a. Authorities within societies must make just laws to ensure the common good
- b. The state receives its authority from God
- c. God gave man dominion over the created world so that in using it according to God's plan, man might be united to him

Week 18: Law / Conscience

Ch. 21: Law and Conscience

- a. Eternal law
 - i. Physical
 - ii. Moral
- b. Divine moral law
 - i. Natural
 - ii. Revealed
- c. Man-made law
 - i. Civil
 - ii. Ecclesiastical
- d. Letter and spirit
- e. Conscience

Week 19: Social Order

Ch. 22: The Church and the Social Order

- a. The Church helps to shape society so that public morality will be in conformity with Christian morality
- b. Man has a duty to protect human life
- c. Social justice establishes conditions in society that allow individuals or groups to obtain their due

Grade 8: Our Life in the Church

Part III: The Means to Fulfill Our Call to Holiness

Week 20: Prayer

Ch. 23: Prayer

- a. Five steps to prayer
 - i. Preparation
 - ii. Humility
 - iii. Faith / Confidence
 - iv. Resignation
 - v. Perseverance
- b. Two forms of prayer
 - i. Mental
 - ii. Vocal
- c. Reasons for prayer
 - i. Blessing and Adoration
 - ii. Thanksgiving
 - iii. Contrition
 - iv. Petition and Intercession
- d. The formal prayers of the Church

Week 21: Sacraments / Penance / Eucharist

Ch. 24: The Sacramental Life

- a. A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ that confers grace
- b. Mortal sin kills the life of grace in the soul
- c. The life of grace is restored through the Sacrament of Penance
- d. The Eucharist, which is the sacrament of the Real Presence of our Lord, both confers grace, and at the same time, is the source of grace

Grade 8: Our Life in the Church

Part IV: The End of Christian Life

Week 22: Death / Judgment / Heaven, Hell, & Purgatory / Second Coming

Ch. 25: Death and the Particular Judgment

- a. Death is the separation of body and soul and the gateway to eternal life
- b. At the moment of death we will receive particular judgment
- c. Heaven is the end for which we were made and we should long for and live so as to receive this reward

Ch. 26: The Trumpet Shall Sound: The End of the World

- a. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead