



*Catechetical Theme  
for 2009 – 2010*

**Religious Formation Program**

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## 2009-2010 RELIGIOUS FORMATION SYLLABUS

*The following is a brief description of the curriculum at St. Gregory the Great Parish. Studies are cumulative. Therefore, students at any and each grade level are responsible for the prayers and doctrines taught previous to their grade level as well as their current grade level. In addition, all classes will have one student session of the Diocesan Safe Environment Curriculum.*

### Pre-School

#### Texts:

Discovering God's World, Ages 3 & 4

God Made the World, Age 5

Sadlier Publishing Company

These texts are part of an early Childhood program that provides faith development for our pre-school children. The activity-rich student texts provide experiences for the child to explore God's gifts of ourselves, creation, family, and our Church community. Prayer experiences foster and nurture the young child in prayer. Stories from the Old and New Testament present the bible as the source for learning about God. Then contemporary stories connect God's love to everyday life. Activities focus on development of faith through language, visual, motor, and listening skills, and games.

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### Grade One

#### Text: God Loves Us

Sadlier Publishing Company

This book provides an introduction to the experience of the love of God in the child's life. There is an explanation of their special dignity as a child of God and the invitation by God to be His friend. An initial acquaintance is provided to the Trinity, the Sacraments, the Ten Commandments, and the child's place within the family of the Catholic Church. This is designed as the first year of preparation for reception of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Also, in cooperation with Grade 6, the students participate in a unit on Hunger, which culminates in teams participating in the national Souper Bowl of Caring.

#### Prayers/Doctrines to be memorized:

*Sign of the Cross  
The Lord's Prayer*

*The Hail Mary  
Glory Be*

### Grade Two

#### Text: Jesus Shares God's Life

Sadlier Publishing Company

This grade is the year for immediate preparation for the reception of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. The second grade will stress an introduction to the notion of sacraments. In the first semester special emphasis is given to the explanation of sin and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is received for the first time in January. The second half of the year gives special emphasis to the Holy Eucharist which will be received for the first time in May. The regular grade text will be supplemented by additional material for the study of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. This program also includes two student-parent retreats prior to the celebration of the sacraments.

#### Prayers/Doctrines to be memorized:

*Act of Contrition  
Grace Before Meals*

*Form of Confession*

### Grade Three

#### Text: We Are the Church

Sadlier Publishing Company

This year provides an overview of the basics of our faith. Truths such as the Creation, the Trinity, and Redemption are explained to the children. The sacraments are more fully explained and are memorized. Catholic devotions and prayers are introduced to the children. Time is spent on the Rosary, learning all the prayers and discussing Jesus' life through the mysteries.

#### Prayers/Doctrines to be memorized:

*The Seven Sacraments  
The Apostles' Creed*

*The Ten Commandments  
The Rosary*

### Grade Four

#### Texts: God's Law Guides Us

Sadlier Publishing Company

A major theme in this text is learning about the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. The sessions also focus on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are explained in greater depth. In addition, the students cover the Sacrament of Reconciliation in greater depth, through supplemental materials, than was done in Grade Two and this study will culminate with a special celebration of that sacrament in December during the Advent season.

#### Prayers/Doctrines to be memorized:

*Act of Contrition  
The Ten Commandments  
Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy*

*Form of Confession  
The Beatitudes*

## Grade Five

**Text: We Meet Jesus in the Sacraments**  
**Sadlier Publishing Company**

This year centers on a deeper explanation of the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church, the Liturgical Seasons, and the four characteristics (one, holy, catholic, and apostolic) that are the Marks of the Church. Catholic social teaching is incorporated throughout the year.

**Prayers/Doctrines to be memorized:**

***Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy***    ***Cardinal Virtues***  
***Two Great Commandments***                      ***Theological Virtues***  
***Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit***

## Grade Six

**Text: We Are God's People**  
**Sadlier Publishing Company**

The prophetic mission of the Church in the world is explored. While building a sense of responsibility, service, and community within the class, an effort is made to explore those beliefs which identify us as Roman Catholic Christians. Scripture is used extensively throughout this year so that students learn more about God's love for His people, and His action in their lives throughout history. These students participate in a unit on Hunger (see Grade 1 listing).

**Prayers/Doctrines to be memorized:**

***Precepts of the Church***                      ***Stations of the Cross***  
***Liturgies of Holy Week***

***NOTE: In Grades 1 – 6, each of the four units is introduced to the students' family by way of "Sharing Faith as a Family". Each chapter in the textbook ends with "Sharing Faith with My Family". These special family components are integrated into the student text, and when utilized together throughout the program, complete the circle of catechesis, which should always begin with the family. Please discuss these pages with your child.***

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## Middle School (Grades 7 & 8)

This year students will be using two volumes of the thematic version of *Call to Faith*. These texts promote dynamic, age-appropriate faith learning, and life applications for young adolescents. These texts present the content of the Catholic faith by drawing on Doctrine, Scripture, People of Faith, and Catholics Today – the very sources of Catholic wisdom. This series encourages youth to rely on their faith as they navigate the changes and challenges of life today – providing meaningful opportunities for faith formation.

### Theme One

**Text: Sacraments**  
**Harcourt Religion Publishers**

### Theme Two

**Text: The Church**  
**Harcourt Religion Publishers**

In addition, several times throughout the year classes will gather for an action-packed session that addresses a theme presented in thought-provoking articles contained in the *Fireside Catholic Youth Bible*.

**Note:** This year during the Lenten season our bi-annual Parish Mission will be held. The Middle School student, together with at least one parent, will be required to attend all three evenings of presentations, including the Sacrament of Reconciliation. These sessions are part of our scheduled programming. Please note the schedule on the back page for these important evenings.

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## Confirmation I & II (Grades 9 & 10)

**Text: Confirmed in a Faithful Community**  
**St. Mary's Press**

This is a comprehensive two-year process that nurtures the faith of our young disciples and invites them to deeper initiation into the life of the Church. These 90-minute sessions contain solid doctrinal content, active learning strategies that engage, energize, and create a lively learning community, Scripture sharing, and creative prayer services. Ice-breakers and community builders are included to help form that needed sense of community. In addition, at times, special speakers/events are included to offer expertise in particular areas. The candidates are called to Faith precisely as it is lived in the Catholic community, a community graced with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Retreats (for students only), Rites of Enrollment, Election, and Petition (for students and sponsors), and Evenings of Reflection are part of the scheduled Confirmation program. Students will also participate in Action-Reflection Activities to show their stewardship in action and will meet with the director as a follow-up to those activities.

**Note:** This year during the Lenten season our bi-annual Parish Mission will be held. The Confirmation student (Confirmation 1 or Confirmation 2), together with his/her sponsor or a parent, will be required to attend all three evenings of presentations, including the Sacrament of Reconciliation. These sessions are part of our scheduled programming. Please note the schedule on the back page for these important evenings.

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**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES: 2009-2010**  
**(Classes will be held on the dates and times listed below)**

**Confirmation I & II (Grades 9 & 10): WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

September	9 30	December	2 9	February	3 10 24
October	7 21	January	6 13	March	8, 9, & 10 (Parish Mission) 24
November	4 18			April	14

**Grade 9:** Retreat (students only) –Saturday, October 17 or Sunday, October 18 (1/2 class each day); Rite of Enrollment (with sponsors) – November 7, 4:00pm; Evening of Reflection (with sponsors) – February 3, 7:00pm

**Grade 10:** Rite of Election (with sponsors) – October 25, 11:00am; Retreat (students only) – Saturday, January 30; Rite of Petition (with sponsors) – Sunday, February 7, 9:00am Mass; Date of Confirmation and Rehearsal Times: TBD

**Middle School (Grades 7 & 8): TUESDAY EVENINGS, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

September	8 22	December	1 15	February	9 23
October	6 20	January	12 26	March	8, 9, & 10 (Parish Mission) 23
November	3 17			April	13

**Grades 1 – 6: MONDAY, TUESDAY, or WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS, 3:45 – 5:00 pm**

September	14/--/-- --/22/23 28/29/30	December	--/1/2 7/8/9 14/15/16 21/--/--	February	1/2/3 8/9/10 22/23/24
October	5/6/7 --/13/14 19/20/21 26/27//28	January	4/5/6 11/12/13 --/19/20 25/26/27	March	1/2/3 8/9/10 15/16/17 22/23/24 29/30/31
November	2/3/4 9/10/-- 16/17/18 30/--/--			April	5/6/7 12/13/14

**Elementary Family Picnics (5:00 pm, following classes):** September 28/29/30

**Grade 2:**

Parent Meetings – October 28 & January 20, 7:00pm; First Reconciliation Retreat – Saturday, January 2, 10:00am – 12:00Noon; First Reconciliation – Tuesday, January 5, 7:00pm; First Eucharist Retreat – Sunday, April 11, 2:00 – 4:00pm; Special Liturgies – February 6, 4:00pm, February 28, 9:00am, March 21, 11:00am; First Eucharist – Saturday, May 1, 12:00Noon or Sunday, May 2, 11:00am; Crowning of Mary’s Statue – Sunday, May 16, 11:00am

**Grade 4:** Reconciliation Service – Tuesday, December 1, 7:00pm

**Pre-School: SUNDAYS, 11:00 am – 12:00 Noon**

**Note:** We plan, once again, to begin this program in October in order to allow our young children time to get settled into their daily routines, and ready for a new church experience.

October	18 25	December	6 13 20	February	7 21 28
November	1 8 15 29	January	3 10 24 31	March	7 14 21 28
				April	11