

GRADE OVERVIEWS AND TEXTS for 2022-2023

Preschool Age 3: (God Made Me: Loyola Press)

Nurtures the child's understanding that God created them and made them good, happy, active and special.

Preschool Age 4: (God Made the World: Loyola Press)

The child learns that God made living things, including people, holy things, the earth and other wonderful surprises.

Kindergarten: (Spirit of Truth: Sophia Institute for Teachers)

Jesus and the Holy Family (Parish Edition) 2nd Edition

Students are introduced to the loving goodness of Jesus Christ, they meet the members of the Holy Family, and they learn who the saints are and what they teach us.

- They begin to explore why virtue is good and sin is bad, and the importance of developing good habits.
- Students learn that they can speak to God in prayer.

Grade 1: (Spirit of Truth: Sophia Institute for Teachers)

God is Love (Parish Edition) 2nd Edition

Students begin to develop an awareness of God as our Father in Heaven, the creator of Heaven and earth, who is all good, who created them in His image and likeness, and who loves them unconditionally.

- Introduction to the basic parts of the Mass.
- The reality of sin is further explored in connection with the Sacrament of Confession.
- Continuing to learn from the lives of saints, they also explore the basics of prayer as a conversation with God.

Grade 2: (Spirit of Truth: Sophia Institute for Teachers)

Our Life in Jesus (Parish Edition) 2nd Edition

This year focuses on how much children are loved by Jesus Christ, and how his death and Resurrection has opened the way to heaven.

- Students continue to learn about the parts of the Mass, the lives and lessons of the saints, and more ways to pray.
- Special focus is placed on the Sacraments of Confession and Eucharist this year.

Grade 3: (Spirit of Truth: Sophia Institute for Teachers)

The Kingdom of God and the Church (Parish Edition)

Students learn what the Catholic Church is, who the Holy Spirit is and how He guides Her, and what it means that Jesus continues His mission through Her.

- Along with the basics of the Trinity and all seven Sacraments, they build on what they have learned about prayer, and explore what it means to live as children of God.
- They also focus on Jesus' Parables of the Kingdom, and Mary, the Mother of the Church.

Grade 4: (Spirit of Truth: Sophia Institute for Teachers)

Jesus Teaches Us How to Live (Parish Edition)

Most of this year focuses on the moral life, our loving response to God's great gift to us, and students explore more deeply what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God.

- Students explore conscience formation, the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, and the Great Commandment.
- The reality of sin and the necessity of virtue are emphasized.

Grade 5: (Spirit of Truth: Sophia Institute for Teachers)

The Sacraments (Parish Edition)

This year provides an in-depth exploration of God's grace in the Sacraments, with a focus on what a Sacrament is and why Jesus instituted them.

- Students explore what it means that God is the source of all life, learn more about Holy Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, and read and discuss longer biographies of the saints, especially young saints.

Grade 6: (Spirit of Truth: Sophia Institute for Teachers)

Sacred Scripture (Parish Edition)

Students spend this year immersed in God's Word in the Sacred Scriptures and explore how the Bible communicates God's plan of salvation to us.

- Includes basics of reading the Bible, Magisterial authority, praying with Scripture, how the Bible is different from other books, and the four senses of Scripture.
- Finally, students experience a comprehensive exploration of the Holy Bible from Genesis to Revelation, all through the lens of the Incarnation.

Grade 7: (Spirit of Truth: Sophia Institute for Teachers)

Living as a Disciple of Christ (Parish Edition)

This year includes four units in which middle school students explore the topics of:

- Jesus and the Gospel message: unifying themes in Scripture and an in-depth examination of the four Gospels;
- Personal growth: the origin, dignity, and destiny of the human person;
- Each of the Seven Sacraments;
- Prayer: its elements, qualities, and challenges, ways of praying, and Mary and the saints as models of prayer.

Grade 8: (Spirit of Truth: Sophia Institute for Teachers) and (Chosen: Your Journey to Confirmation: Ascension Press)

The first half of the year will use **The Communion of the Faithful (Parish Edition)** by Sophia Institute, and the second half of the year will use the video-based series **Chosen: Your Journey to Confirmation** by Ascension Press

This year includes several units for middle school students to build on their understanding of:

- Personal growth: our vocation to love and our responsibilities to God and each other;
- Morality: conscience formation through prayer and God's gift of an objective moral standard;
- God's Plan for Marriage and the Family: our identity as male and female, purposes and abuses of sexuality, and resisting temptation to avoid sin and grow in virtue.

Bridges to Confirmation Year 1: (One Faith, One Lord: A Study of Basic Catholic Belief: Sadlier) and (YOUCAT: Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church: Ignatius Press)

This catch-up program is a single volume text that presents fundamental beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith. An ideal introduction for those who have minimal religious education, you'll find:

- A review for Confirmation candidates
- Chapters that each present the three key doctrinal points and incorporate the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- Lessons that foster faith through a relationship with the Blessed Trinity and the Church community

Bridges to Confirmation Year 2: (Called to Be Catholic: Loyola Press) and (Confirmed in the Spirit: Loyola Press)

Centered on the **Creed**, the **Sacraments**, the **Moral Life**, and **Prayer**—the four pillars of the Catechism—the *Called to Be Catholic* Young People's Book provides a solid introduction to the key teachings of the Catholic faith while taking into account the different learning styles of students.

The second half of the year will use *Confirmed in the Spirit*. This book seamlessly integrates engaging, relevant content with a variety of reflective and active experiences. Age-appropriate lessons guide Confirmation candidates to embrace the lifelong Catholic practices of worship, prayer, stewardship, service, pursuit of wisdom, and moral decision-making as they prepare for Confirmation and the next phase of their lives as Catholics.

Weekend Sacrament Preparation Class: (Believe, Celebrate, Live: Reconciliation & Eucharist: Intermediate: Sadlier)

This engaging program is presented in a one-volume flip book preparing older children and their families for the celebration of First Penance and First Communion. Six clearly presented lessons for each sacrament:

- Open children's religious imagination through the practice of *Lectio & Visio Divina* and ritual catechesis
- Reach all members of the parish community with the fully Spanish edition, *Creer • Celebrar • Vivir*

Home Study Classes, Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7: (Spirit of Truth Digital Parish Edition: Sophia Institute for Teachers)

Home study students will be able to access their course materials online through the Digital Edition of Spirit of Truth. Parents take primary responsibility for catechizing children by implementing the lessons in the home while the catechists assign and track work to ensure accountability. Texts, activities, and assignments will be identical to those offered in-person, with a few exceptions. Assignments will be submitted online.

For more details:

Sophia Institute for Teachers: <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/shop/spirit-of-truth/parish-edition>

Loyola Press <https://www.loyolapress.com/>

Sadlier <https://www.sadlier.com/religion/parish-school/catholic-faith-formation>