

Characteristics of the Seventh Grader

Twelve years old

Qualities

Social involvement is predominately with peer groups

The young adolescent is beginning to build moral habits

They are beginning to encounter conflicts in their spirituality because of their increasing desire for independence.

They tend to reject many of their childhood notions of God

They become more self-conscious and protective of their privacy

They are interested in religion and they want to know what their faith community believes and why.

During adolescence they become capable of searching, inquiry and evaluation

This is a difficult period in the life of the young adolescent. Therefore, teachers should realize that each student has a real need for adult role models. This need must be balanced by feelings of security and positive self-esteem so that each can achieve greater independence and self-control. In an atmosphere of safety and love, seventh graders will enjoy participating in discussions/celebrations and prayer services.

SPECIAL NOTE

Safe Environment Children's Program

The Safe Environment Children's Program was introduced in the Catholic Schools in the spring of 2003. There program consists of three lessons which are taught over a period of three years and then repeated.

The program was introduced in the parish Religious Education programs in the fall of 2008. Each parish is required to present one lesson to the children (grades K – 10) in the parish program each year. It is preferable that the lesson be taught in the fall of the catechetical/school year.

Following the lesson, a record of training must be sent to Kathleen Bolinski, Safe Environment Coordinator, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.

All materials needed for teaching the lessons in the *Safe Environment Children's Program* in the parish and school are found in the *Safe Environment* binder in the parish/school office.

CATECHESIS

1. New Testament (CCC 74-141)
 - a. Books, genres, themes, authors

2. The Context of Jesus' Life
 - a. Culture and climate
 - b. Daily life
 - c. Politics and history
 - d. Jesus' Jewish heritage and practices

3. Birth and Youth (CCC 422-424; 430-460; 522-534)
 - a. Incarnation/Nativity: Jesus' divine and human natures (CCC 232-267; 461-463; 470-511)
 - b. The Holy Family (CCC 2197-2200) – Mary (CCC 148-149; 973-975)
 - c. The “hidden years”
 - d. Jesus is obedient to human and divine authority (CCC 2822-2827)

4. Public Life
 - a. Baptism by John/temptations (CCC 535-540)
 - b. Call of the Apostles (CCC 857-862)
 - c. Epiphany: Jesus' identity revealed (CCC 422-424)
 - d. Miracles (CCC 547-550) – healings, nature miracles, restorations of life
 - e. Teaching (CCC 430-455; 543-556)
 - i. Kingdom of God (543-556)
 - ii. Parables (546)
 - iii. Sermon on the Mount (1716-1729)
 - iv. Modern applications of Jesus' teaching (1699-1715)
 - f. Titles of Jesus: Teacher, Prophet, Healer, Reconciler, Christ, Son of God, Lord (CCC 430-455)

5. Passion and Death (CCC 575-637)
 - a. The conspiracy against Jesus
 - b. Last Supper: Eucharist (1402-1419), washing of feet (John 13:4-9)
 - c. Agony and acceptance of God's Will (Matthew 26:36-46)
 - d. Trials (Matthew 26:47-75)
 - e. Scourging, Crucifixion (Matthew 27: 1-56)
 - f. Descent into hell (CCC 631-637)
 - g. The meaning of the Cross (CCC 623)
 - h. Titles of Jesus: Servant, Redeemer, Lamb of God, Savior, Obedient Son, Sacrament (CCC 430-455)

6. Resurrection and Ascension (CCC 638-667)
 - a. Resurrection: physical and transforming (CCC 631-658)
 - i. Our Resurrection (CCC 988-991)
 - ii. Life Everlasting (CCC 1020-1060)
 - iii. Heaven, Hell and Purgatory

- b. The Ascension: Jesus' unlimited presence among us (CCC 659-667)
- 7. Pentecost (CCC 731-41)
 - a. The first Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)
 - b. The disciples' ongoing mission in today's world (Matthew 28:19-20)
 - c. Jesus will return (CCC 668-682)
- 8. Encountering and Celebrating Jesus Today
 - a. In the Liturgy (CCC 1067-1690)
 - b. Sacraments (CCC 1067-1690, 1114-1116)
 - c. The Communion of Saints (CCC 946-962)
 - d. Prayer (CCC 2559, 2562-2564, 2697)

Grade Seven -- Words to be Taught

Ascension
 Epiphany
 Eucharist
 Incarnation
 Parable

Parousia
 Paschal Mystery
 Pentecost
 Real Presence
 Transubstantiation