

**MORALITY**  
**ELEMENTARY COURSE OF STUDY**  
**GRADES 2, 4, 6, 7**

**FOUNDATION: THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON**

**The student will:**

- Grade 2** know and respect life as a gift from God.  
**2** realize and show that, as children of God, we respect ourselves, others, and God's creation.  
**2** know and demonstrate that we are called to use our gifts and talents for the good of others.  
**4** know and respect life as a gift from God and a right of every human being.  
**4** know our obligation to care for our lives and the lives of others.  
**6** know that the dignity of the human person is rooted in his/her creation in the image and likeness of God.  
**7** know that each human being is to be respected because he/she is a son/daughter of God our Father.

**DEFINITION**

**The students will:**

- 2** understand human behavior as caring or selfish.  
**4** know that the basic principle of morality is to do good and avoid evil.  
**6** know that the basic principle of morality is to do good and avoid evil.  
**7** know that the basic principle of morality is to do good and avoid evil.  
  
**4** live life according to the principles of Jesus.  
**6** know that morality is a way of living out human deeds and actions according to the Gospel.  
**7** know the difference between moral, immoral, and amoral decisions.

**CALL TO LIVING A VIRTUOUS LIFE**

**Virtue**

**The students will:**

- 2** know what a good habit is and develop good habits of acting.  
**4** know that good habits of acting are called virtues.  
**4** know that by practicing virtues people become virtuous.  
**6** know that good habits of acting are called virtues and are a response to a call to holiness.  
**7** know that Jesus calls us to live virtuous lives.  
**7** understand the relationship between virtue and character.  
  
**2** give examples of people with good habits and what lessons they can learn from them.

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- 4 know that the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity are foundations for moral living. (cf. Glossary)
- 7 know that, from the grace of Baptism, we receive the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity which are the foundations of moral activity. (CCC 1813)
- 7 identify and define the four Moral (Cardinal) Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance. (cf. Glossary)
- 7 give examples of people who live the Moral (Cardinal) Virtues.
  
- 4 identify and practice the virtues of loyalty, thankfulness, forgiveness, truthfulness, trustworthiness, respect for others, etc.
- 6 explain and practice virtues; e.g., honesty, responsibility, faithfulness, kindness, forgiveness, freedom, obedience, patience, self-control, diligence, etc.
- 7 understand and practice virtues; e.g., honesty, responsibility, faithfulness, kindness, forgiveness, diligence, freedom, obedience, patience, self-control, etc.

**Freedom and Decision Making**

**The student will:**

- 2 know that God gives people the freedom to make caring or selfish choices.
- 4 know that God gives people free will to make choices between right and wrong.
- 6 know that God gives people free will and the power of reason so they can make responsible choices.
- 7 know that God gives people free will and the power of reason so they can make good moral decisions.
  
- 2 know that we are responsible for our personal choices and the consequence of these choices.
- 4 know that we are responsible for our personal choices and the consequence of these choices.
- 6 know that we are responsible for our personal choices and the consequences of these choices.
- 7 know that we are responsible for our personal choices and the consequences of these choices.
  
- 2 distinguish between caring or selfish choices.
- 4 distinguish between good choices and bad choices.
- 6 distinguish between virtues and vices (sins).
  
- 6 know that sinful attitudes lead to sinful acts.
- 7 show how sinful attitudes lead to sinful acts.
- 7 understand that God gives us free will guided by Jesus' life and teachings and the leadership of the Church as guides.

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- 7 be able to recognize basic values that influence our decisions, even when these values conflict; e.g., generosity vs. greed, vulnerability vs. power.
- 7 reflect on and discuss some of the values of society reflected in youth culture, media that are contrary to Catholic Christian values and be able to explain why.

#### **Salvation (Redemption)**

##### **The students will:**

- 2 know that God has saved us from sin by sending his Son, Jesus, our Savior, who gave his life and rose from the dead for us.
- 4 know that the terms “salvation” and “redemption” mean that God has saved us (redeemed us) from sin so we can live a virtuous life.
- 6 know that salvation history is the history of God’s loving relationship with his people.
- 7 know that God has saved us from sin through his Son, Jesus, in order that we might live a virtuous life and go to heaven.

#### **Grace**

##### **The students will:**

- 2 know that we have God’s life (Grace) within us.
- 4 know that grace is a gift of God, a share in God’s life.
- 6 know that because we have God’s life (Grace) within us, we are called to act morally and live a virtuous life.

## **CONSCIENCE**

#### **Definition**

##### **The students will:**

- 2 define conscience as the power inside us to know what is right or wrong.
- 4 know that conscience is a gift from God.
- 6 define conscience as the power inside us to know what is right or wrong.

#### **Formed Conscience**

##### **The students will:**

- 2 know the importance of listening to their conscience.
- 4 use and develop their conscience to make correct moral decisions.
- 6 know the sources which help them form their conscience: mind, heart, family, community, Catholic tradition.
- 7 recognize and give examples of morally mature people.

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**Informed Conscience**

**The students will:**

- 7 recognize the necessity of an informed conscience and the steps to develop that conscience: prayer, study, consultation, and an understanding of the teachings of the Church.
- 7 know the three moral determinants: the act itself, the situation(s) surrounding the act, the intention behind the act.
- 7 understand how the moral determinants affect moral decision-making.

**SIN**

**Definition of Sin**

**The students will:**

- 2 know the meaning of sin as a selfish or unloving choice.
- 4 know the difference between temptation and sin.
- 6 know that sin is choosing, with freedom and knowledge, what is unloving.
- 7 know that sin is a conscious turning away from God's loving offer of friendship which leads to a weakening or total breakdown of our relationship with God and with others.

**Original Sin**

**The student will:**

- 2 understand the concept of Original Sin as the first sin committed by Adam and Eve when they turned away from God.
- 4 understand that Original Sin is the basic condition or state of the world affected by sin into which every member of the human race (except Jesus and Mary) is born.
- 7 differentiate between Original Sin and personal sin.

**Venial and Mortal Sin**

**The students will:**

- 2 know the difference between serious and less serious sin.
- 4 know that serious sin is called mortal and lesser sin is called venial.
- 7 know the difference between mortal (serious) and venial (lesser) sin and the conditions necessary for mortal sin.

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**Sins of Commission and Omission**

**The students will:**

- 4 understand the difference between sins of commission and sins of omission.
- 7 understand and give examples of the difference between sins of commission and sins of omission.

**RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS**

**The students will:**

- 2 identify God as loving and forgiving.
- 4 identify God as loving and forgiving.
- 7 identify God as manifesting unconditional love and forgiveness.
  
- 2 explain how forgiveness is part of reconciliation.
- 2 share experiences of reconciliation in their lives.
- 4 explain how forgiveness is part of reconciliation.
- 4 share experiences of reconciliation in their lives and explain how these experiences affect their lives.
- 7 know that as people of God we are called to forgive ourselves and others.
  
- 2 be aware of personal sinfulness and reconciliation and how each affects the Christian community.
- 4 be able to recognize the effects of reconciliation and forgiveness on the Christian community and the world.
- 7 discuss the role of reconciliation in living the Christian life today.

**MORAL GUIDES**

**The Two Great Commandments**

**The students will:**

- 2 know that the two great commandments are to love God and to love others.
- 4 know and understand that the two great commandments are to love God and to love others; e.g., Deut. 6:4-6; Tobit 4:15 “Never do to anyone else anything you would not want someone to do to you.” God and to love others; e.g., Deut 6:4-6, Tobit 4:15.
- 6 give examples of how they can live the two great commandments to love God and to love others; e.g., Deut 6:4-6; Tobit 4:15.
- 7 give examples of the two great commandments to love God and to love others; e.g., Deut. 6: 4-6; Tobit 4:15.

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**The Ten Commandments**

**The students will:**

- 2 know that the Ten Commandments are our guides in making responsible moral choices.
- 4 know in order the Ten Commandments as guides to make responsible moral choices.
- 6 know, understand and use the Ten Commandments to make responsible moral choices.
- 6 know that, by being faithful to the Ten Commandments, they are living their baptismal covenant with God.
- 6 know that another name for the Ten Commandments is the Decalogue.

**Beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12 and Luke 6:20-26)**

**The students will:**

- 4 know that the Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching.
- 7 know that the Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching.
  
- 4 know that the Beatitudes call us to live beyond the requirements of the Ten Commandments.
- 7 know that the Beatitudes call us to live beyond the requirements of the Ten Commandments.
  
- 4 know the Beatitudes and be able to discuss ways of acting on them.
- 7 know and explain the Beatitudes.
- 7 recognize and practice the Beatitudes in their lives.

**The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy (Mt. 25:34-40)**

**The students will:**

- 2 know the Corporal Works of Mercy.
- 4 know the Corporal Works of Mercy.
  
- 4 know the Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- 7 know that the Spiritual Works of Mercy strengthen our relationship with Christ and others.
  
- 4 know and practice the Corporal and the Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- 7 know and practice the Corporal and the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

**The Authority of the Church**

**The students will:**

- 2 understand, recognize and respect authority figures in their lives.
- 4 give examples of those people who respect authority in their lives.
- 6 understand the concept of authority.

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- 6** be able to respect authority in their lives.
- 6** give examples from the Old Testament of people who respected authority in their lives; e.g., Abraham, Moses, etc.
- 7** know Jesus' teaching on authority; e.g., Lk 20:25; Mt 5:17 ff.
- 7** know that the Pope and bishops have been ordained to be official and authentic teachers of Christian life, and it is their office and duty to express Christ's teachings on moral questions and matters of belief.
- 7** know that this teaching authority is called the "Magisterium" of the Church.

**Role Models**

**The students will:**

- 2** recognize that Jesus and his teachings are guides in our daily living; e.g., Jn. 10: 1-18.
- 2** use the qualities of saints as guides for daily living.
- 4** use the life of Jesus and his teachings as guides in making responsible choices; e.g., Parable of the Good Samaritan, Lk. 10:25-37.
- 4** know about, and imitate as guides for daily living, the qualities of saints who model the person of Jesus.
- 6** be able to recognize qualities of saintliness in those living today who model the person of Jesus.
- 7** be able to use the life of Jesus and his teachings as guides in making responsible choices; e.g., Parable of the Prodigal Son, Lk. 15:11-32; Woman in Adultery, Jn. 8: 1-11.
- 7** recognize the qualities of people in past history or currently living who model the person of Jesus as guides for daily living.

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