

MORALITY
ELEMENTARY COURSE OF STUDY
GRADE 7

FOUNDATION: THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

The students will:

- know that each human being is to be respected because he/she is a son/daughter of God our Father.

DEFINITION

The students will:

- know that the basic principle of morality is to do good and avoid evil.
- know the difference between moral, immoral, and amoral decisions.

CALL TO LIVING A VIRTUOUS LIFE

The students will:

Virtue

- know that Jesus calls us to live virtuous lives.
- understand the relationship between virtue and character.
- 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).
- identify and define the four Moral (Cardinal) Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance. (cf. Glossary)
- give examples of people who live the Moral (Cardinal) Virtues.
- understand and practice virtues; e.g., honesty, responsibility, faithfulness kindness, forgiveness, diligence, freedom, obedience, patience, self-control, etc.

Freedom and Decision Making

The students will:

- know that God gives people free will and the power of reason so they can make good moral decisions.
- know that we are responsible for our personal choices and the consequences of these choices.
- show how sinful attitudes lead to sinful acts.

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- understand that God gives us free will guided by Jesus' life and teachings and the leadership of the Church as guides.
- be able to recognize basic values that influence our decisions, even when these values conflict; e.g., generosity vs. greed, vulnerability vs. power.
- reflect on and discuss some of the values of society reflected in youth culture, media, etc., that are contrary to Catholic Christian values and be able to explain why.

Salvation (Redemption)

The students will:

- 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.

CONSCIENCE

Formed Conscience

The student will:

- recognize and give examples of morally mature people.

Informed Conscience

The students will:

- 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.
- know the three moral determinants: act itself, the situation(s) surrounding the act, the intention behind the act.
- understand how the moral determinants affect moral decision-making.

SIN

Definition of Sin

The students will:

- 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.

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Original Sin

The student will:

- differentiate between Original Sin and personal sin.

Venial and Mortal Sin

The students will:

- know the difference between mortal (serious) and venial (lesser) sin and the conditions necessary for mortal sin.

Sins of Commission and Omission

The students will:

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

RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS

The students will:

- identify God as manifesting unconditional love and forgiveness.
- know that as people of God we are called to forgive ourselves and others.
- discuss the role of reconciliation in living the Christian life today.

MORAL GUIDES

The Two Great Commandments

The students will:

- give examples of the two great commandments to love God and to love others; e.g., Deut. 6: 4-6; Tobit 4:15.

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

The students will:

- know that the Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching.
- know that the Beatitudes call us to live beyond the requirements of the Ten Commandments.
- know and explain the Beatitudes.
- recognize and practice the Beatitudes in their lives.

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

The students will:

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

The Authority of the Church

The students will:

- know Jesus' teaching on authority; e.g., Lk 20:25; Mt 5:17 ff.
- 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.
- know that this teaching authority is called the "Magisterium" of the Church.

Role Models

The students will:

- 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.
- 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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