

Grade 8 – Stand by Me

CRITICAL OUTCOMES AND KEY CONCEPTS IN BOLD

Unit 1: We believe in the Holy Spirit

<p><u>Theme 1: What do they expect of me now?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and evaluate expectations that affect their behaviour - Retell the Pentecost story - Identify and describe the ways that the expectations of the followers of Jesus changed because of Pentecost - Know that the Holy Spirit is present to them as a helper 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ways we find and know God may change as we change. - The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost made it possible for the disciples to respond and share the full wonder of the resurrection. - The Holy Spirit helps us to deal with changing expectations and helps us to change our expectations. - God is always active in our lives, but we are not always open to experiencing God’s activity. - Through the course of salvation history, God has revealed God’s self in the law, incarnate in the person of Jesus and active in the community of believers.
<p><u>Theme 2: Am I strong enough?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify ways the <u>Holy Spirit</u> gives us the strength to carry out God’s will - Identify the <u>gifts</u> of the Spirit in their own lives and in the lives of others - Name ways of <u>developing</u> their gifts 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The tradition of the Church lists the seven gifts of the Spirit as wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. - The Holy Spirit helps us to understand God’s plan for us and for the world. - Because God has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are capable of living as Christ calls us to live and loving as Christ calls us to love. - The gifts of the Spirit are most clearly seen in the community of the faithful acting together.
<p><u>Theme 3: How do I know I’m on the right track?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name and describe the fruits of the Spirit and identify them in their lives - Evaluate decisions in terms of the presence or absence of the fruits of the Spirit - Explain how the Holy Spirit helps them to be disciples of Jesus 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (The Catechism of the Catholic Church also lists goodness, modesty and chastity). - The fruits of the Spirit are present when we do God’s will. - Doing what God wants us to do also makes us feel better than anything else can - most happy, most complete. - The Holy Spirit changes the world by changing our hearts. - Discernment is the skill whereby we get to know God’s will and learn to choose what is best.
<p><u>Theme 4: What does it take to really win?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define solidarity and explain how the nature of God as Trinity calls us to live in solidarity with each other - Evaluate their own willingness to be present to others and to live in community - Recognize that God relates to us in three distinct ways as three distinct persons - Know that there is only one God, one absolute authority, one source of love and truth - Know and pray a trinitarian prayer 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. - The Trinity reveals God’s nature as always relating in love and calling us to do the same. - Although we understand God in human terms, God far exceeds human understanding. - The Trinity is one. Each of the three persons is wholly and entirely God and yet each is distinct. - The Trinity helps us to understand that community requires co-operative love and solidarity. - "Really winning" means being able to stand in solidarity with others, understanding people’s needs as our own. - Perfect love allows us to express ourselves fully and completely without any loss of self.

Note: You may want to do Unit 8 near the beginning of the year!!!

Unit 2: We believe in the holy Church

<p><u>Theme 1: Who wants to be holy?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define holiness - Define sacrament and identify sacramental moments that reveal God’s presence in their lives - Name the seven sacraments of the Church - Know that the sacraments are life-giving encounters with God which help us to become holy 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God makes things holy by giving them a special purpose within the divine plan. We are holy when we olive according to our purpose. We are holy when we are fully ourselves. - Love is the “soul” of holiness. The Church leads us to holiness as it enables us to love more completely and to encounter God more fully. - The sacraments reveal God’s loving, saving action and also enable us to participate in that action. - The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church. They make us sharers in divine life.
<p><u>Theme 2: How do I fit in?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe the commitments that are made in Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist - Identify ways Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist celebrate and encourage belonging - Name the symbols of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist - Restate the Catholic baptismal promises and evaluate the degree to which they accept and live by them - Identify the ways Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist give us a purpose in life and offer us strength and support 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our Baptism marks us as chosen by God and as people called to grow in a loving relationship with God and with each other. - In Confirmation we are more firmly united to Christ and to the Church. - Confirmation gives us the strength to be better witnesses of Christ. - God’s action in the sacraments is complete although it takes us a lifetime to appropriate God’s action into our lives. - Our commitments shape our growth as persons. - We belong to Christ because we have taken his very self into us at the Eucharistic table. - As we share in the one body of Christ we are united with each other and reminded to live as God calls us to live. We must overcome all of those things that set one person against another.
<p><u>Theme 3: What can I do when my life seems to be falling apart?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retell and explain the significance of gospel stories in which Jesus offers healing - Recognize that God helps us grow in holiness no matter what has happened in our lives - Identify the ways that the sacrament of reconciliation and anointing are signs of hope and wholeness in the midst of confusion and brokenness - Identify moments when God has given healing to them and to those they know - Identify the need for healing and forgiveness in their lives 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have been chosen by God to reveal God’s love to the world. - When we are unable to live out our call because of weakness and sin, God is there to strengthen and renew us so that we may once again live in holiness. - God has chosen the Church to bring God’s healing touch to the people of God. It is the job of the Christian community to love, forgive and comfort. - The sacrament of Anointing connects the suffering of the sick with the Passion of Christ so that suffering serves holiness. - The sacrament of Reconciliation allows us to begin again when we have failed.

Unit 3: We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church

<p><u>Theme 1: Why bother with Church?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the implications of believing in ‘one’ church - Explain the meaning of the word ‘catholic’ and the ways the Church is for all people - Describe a variety of definitions of Church - Explain the task of the Church and all of its members in continuing the work of Christ by making the love of God available to all - Express ways in which the Church is (or could be) relevant to them and to others their age - Know that there are several different rites recognized and accepted by the Catholic church - Pray the Nicene creed 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Catholic” means universal. The Church is universal because it has a mission to the whole world. - The primary mission of the Church is to enable people to share in the love of the Trinity. - The Church is not subjected to one culture or one time but offers challenge to every culture in every time. - Though marked by great diversity, the Church is one. All who believe have one source in the Trinity, one founder in Christ, and one soul in the Holy Spirit. - No single mode of church adequately represents its complexity and diversity. A variety of models help us to understand church and to accept others who operate from a different model of church than we do.
<p><u>Theme 2: What can I hope for when I give?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define the word ‘apostolic’ and identify the many ways that Christians are emissaries for and servants of Christ - Identify lifestyle choices that serve others and share the Good News - Explain how the sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders model faithful service for us - Articulate the meaning of fidelity - Express their understanding of the ways God is calling them to serve 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apostle means “emissary” – one sent as an agent on a mission. All members of the Church are called to be emissaries for Christ, agents of the kingdom of God for all peoples. - As members of an apostolic Church, we are called to serve others in love. - Marriage and Holy Orders are sacraments of service. They help us to understand what it means to love fully and freely. They reveal Christ, who has loved us completely and freely given even his own life for us. - Our lives and the choices that we make either reveal or obscure God for those who know us. - “The measure you give will be the measure you get back...” (Luke 6:38).

Unit 4: We believe in the communion of saints

<p><u>Theme 1: Does death destroy everything?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a verbal or artistic medium to express what it means to live as part of a community - Identify those who are a part of the community of saints and explain how the community functions as a whole - Describe the Christian attitude toward death - Demonstrate an understanding of intercessory prayer (prayers addressed to saints) 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Death cannot destroy the bonds of Christian community and love. Those who have died are still a part of our community, but in a new way. - Our actions and our prayers affect others within our community. - We request the intercession of the saints just as we request prayers of others within our community. We believe that the saints in heaven are more intimately united with Christ; therefore, their prayers may be more completely “in the name of Jesus” than our own would be. - We mourn the death of those we love even while we celebrate everlasting life. - Death is a reminder that God’s plan for creation has not yet been brought to completion.
<p><u>Theme 2: What makes a person’s life successful?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retell the stories of some of the saints of the Church and explain how they challenge us - Use the stories of one or more saints to find inspiration and courage in the face of a difficult situation - Set some goals for themselves using one of the saints of the Church as a model - Recognize that although no one is perfect, there are people whose lives inspire others to walk more closely with God; these people are on the road to sainthood - Report about people today who inspire others to greater love 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saints are those who recognize God’s great love for them and act accordingly despite difficulties. - Saints strengthen the union of the whole Church, drawing us closer to each other and to God. - Saints provide examples of the many different ways we can live out our faithfulness to God. - Saints did not live “perfect” lives. - We inspire and strengthen one another. We are strong as a community, not as isolated individuals. - Each one of us is called to be a saint.

Unit 5: We believe in... the forgiveness of sins

<p><u>Theme 1:</u> We know these rules. Why do we have to learn them again? Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the way rules help them to live life to the fullest - Restate each of the Ten Commandments in terms of the challenges that they pose for Grade 8 students today - Create a personal guide for living based on the Ten Commandments - Examine their consciences 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ten Commandments must be interpreted in light of Jesus' teaching about love. - We obey the commandments in response to God's loving initiative. - The commandments state fundamental obligations. They also imply obligations to less serious matters. - We keep the Ten Commandments in their truest sense only if we live in union with Jesus. - As our lives change, the Ten Commandments have different things to teach us.
<p><u>Theme 2:</u> What's right? What's wrong? Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explain the role of conscience in answering the questions "What's right? What's wrong?" - Define sin and describe the conditions that make something a serious sin - Evaluate "real-life" situations on the basis of a definition of sin and the conditions for sin - Demonstrate an understanding of social sin and individual participation in it - Identify ways of developing their conscience 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Church helps us develop and inform our conscience and conform it to the truth that is God. - Sin is the abuse of the freedom that God gives us. Sin weakens our love for God and impairs our growth toward wholeness. - Serious sin requires a sinful matter, knowledge that the deed is wrong, and free consent to the deed. - Sin may exist in the accepted structures of our community. As Christians we must keep our ears open to hear the cries of the oppressed. - Sin is found both in external actions and in internal attitudes toward God, others and ourselves. - Sin is deliberately falling short of what we know Jesus would ask us to do.
<p><u>Theme 3:</u> How can we work it out? Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explain what it means to report or "change our hearts" - Describe the conditions the God set in forgiving us and compare and contrast them to the condition we set in forgiving others - Evaluate their own willingness to forgive in terms of Jesus' teaching about forgiveness - Take a step toward true reconciliation with another 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order for repentance to begin, we must recognize our sin. - True sorrow consists in admitting that we have done wrong, trying to undo the damage, deciding not to do it again, and asking for forgiveness. - Forgiveness means that God heals our hearts, restores and renews our love for God and helps us to grow as loving people. - God loves us no matter what we have done; however, we can experience God's forgiveness only if we repent and accept God's mercy. - We are called by Jesus to give up our desire to "get even" with those who have offended us.
<p><u>Theme 4:</u> Why should I confess my to sins to anyone besides God? Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Articulate the value of the sacrament of Reconciliation - Explain how sin affects our relationship with the whole Christian community - Outline the process of sacramental reconciliation - Recount an experience of genuine reconciliation - Celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation, if possible 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Eucharist is the primary sacrament of reconciliation. - Sin has a ripple effect – our sin affects many people. - There is value in confessing our sins to another person and in hearing the words of forgiveness from another person. - The priest, through the words of absolution, reconciles us both to God and to the Christian community. - The grace received in the sacrament of Reconciliation makes it possible for us to reorient our lives toward God.

Unit 6: We believe in... the resurrection of the body

<p><u>Theme 1: Who wants this body?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate a healthy, or increasingly positive, sense of self-respect and self-love - Know that God cares about both our bodies and our souls - Explain how the way they treat their bodies affects their relationship with God and with others - Demonstrate respect for the wholeness of persons who are physically, emotionally or mentally challenged 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We can make the choice to develop ourselves or to not develop ourselves. Unhealthy lifestyle choices are ways a person chooses not to respect him or herself. - Because each body is a precious gift from God, each person has the responsibility to care for his or her body as fully as possible. - We must believe in our own basic goodness in order to make the choice to grow and develop. - We believe that both our bodies and souls belong to God; therefore, we should respect our own bodies and those of others. -God created and redeems both our bodies and our souls.
<p><u>Theme 2: What's sex worth?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline the process of developing worthwhile relationships - Define “love” and determine appropriate and inappropriate expressions of love and affection - Summarize Catholic teaching about responsible sexual conduct - Identify the implications of the belief that our bodies are part of our eternal selves and we should not pledge them lightly 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our sexuality is an intrinsic part of our being. It is part of what makes us complete persons made in the image of God. - God has given us our bodies to help us communicate with each other, to give life, to heal, to express affection, concern and love. - The way we express ourselves should be in harmony with our emotional, intellectual, social, and spiritual expression. - Sexual love should be total, lifelong and life-giving. - People often use sex and sexuality in a way that hurts others because they fail to understand the beauty and dignity of human sexuality.
<p><u>Theme 3: Can suffering be meaningful?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draw guidance from gospel stories which touch upon the issue of suffering - Evaluate their own attitudes toward suffering and toward those who suffer - Identify the pain around them and some Christian ways of responding to that pain - Report on what is being done to ease suffering in one area of their community - Make a commitment to reach out to someone who is suffering 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our attitudes toward those in need reveal our attitude toward Christ. - We may not be able to end suffering, but each one of us can do things that will make a difference to those who suffer. - Jesus calls us to reach out to those who are in need. - In the gospels, it is those who are suffering that come to recognize God in Jesus. - In suffering, we can find God. The more we recognize our own inadequacy, the more we can come to know God (see 2 Corinthians 12:9).

Unit 7: We believe in Jesus... life everlasting.

<p><u>Theme 1: How is my life connected?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognize that human beings and all the rest of material creation share one destiny in God’s plan - Explain the implications of the fact that we are called by God to live life to the fullest in harmony with the rest of creation - Express a growing sense of responsibility for stewardship of the earth - Demonstrate an awareness of the beauty, awesome power and sacredness of all life and all creation that comes to us as a gift from God, the Creator 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The eschatological (end times) expectation of a new earth emphasizes the great value of the created order of things and the importance of caring for life. - Life reveals God. We must not allow life to be damaged or destroyed. - All life is a gift from God. - As we share in life, we care for life in all its dimensions and connections. - Nothing that is good ceases to exist. We believe in a new heaven and a new earth where life is transformed, not ended.
<p><u>Theme 2: How can I make the world more peaceful?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify some of the causes and results of violence within their own community and the steps being taken to confront violence - Describe Jesus’ response to violence and explain its relevance to their lives - Evaluate their own attitude toward violence - Confront violence in their own lives by preparing and practising peacemaking behaviours 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our basic belief that human life is valuable requires that we oppose all things that seek to harm or destroy that life. - Violence is often rooted in a sense of helplessness and hopelessness. - God alone is the Lord and life from beginning to end. - The failure to honour the dignity inherent in every human life is the failure to honour God. - To make peace, one must seek justice for all - especially for the weak and powerless.
<p><u>Theme 3: Do I live justly?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explain our responsibility not only for those who are close to us, but also for people in need wherever they may be - Illustrate the relationship between poverty and excessive consumption - Understand the Golden Rule and apply it to a decision making situation - Take a stand for justice and do what they can within their own community 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Love of God and the Golden Rule are the foundation for just relationships. - We must never allow our wants for luxury goods to come before other people’s basic needs. - Although we may not be able to eliminate injustice in the world, we can live justly in our own relationships and be “leaven of the reign of God” and the “salt for the earth, light for the world.” - Twenty percent of the world’s people consume 80 percent of the world’s wealth. Canadians and Americans are part of that 20 percent. - All people have a right to a share of the world’s goods. Not to enable them to share in these goods is to steal from them.

Unit 8: Amen

<p><u>Theme 1: So what difference does belief make?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recite the Apostles’ Creed - Articulate the meaning of ‘Amen’ - Name ways they will live out the beliefs that they express in the Creed 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Creed reminds us who we are and who we are called to become. When we say “Amen,” we accept God’s guidance in both our being and our becoming. - “Amen” means “I believe” or “So be it.” - We say “Amen” both individually and as a community.
<p><u>Theme 2: Why go to Mass?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be familiar with the term “real presence” and understand what it says about the Eucharist - Express how the Eucharist gives the faith community the strength to live out what it professes in the Creed - Describe what we are saying when we say “The body of Christ” and when we say “Amen” - Evaluate their willingness to be the body of Christ for others - Outline the flow of the Eucharistic liturgy and express the purpose and value of each part of the liturgy in relationship to our faith and our lives 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our “Amen” to the Creed is made possible, reinforced and lived out in our participation in the Eucharist. - The Mass (or Divine Liturgy) deepens our faith and nourishes us through Scripture, the Eucharist and our participation in the community where Christ is present. - During the Mass we bring the “stuff” of our daily lives to God. God touches and transforms both it and us so that we might live in greater harmony with God and with God’s people. - Through the ritual of the liturgy, God comforts and challenges us. - In the Eucharist we are given the strength and support that we need to truly be one with Christ. - We can live as we are called to live because we are supported and nourished by Christ.
<p><u>Theme 3: How shall we celebrate?</u> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan a Eucharistic celebration with the focus “finding inner strength” - Explain the choices that can be made to tailor the liturgy to the needs of the worshipping community - Participate actively in the liturgy (teach actions and attitude) 	<p><u>Key Concepts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The elements of the liturgy work together to enable the faithful to express themselves to God and to hear and receive God. - The options in the liturgy allow communities to emphasize different things according to the needs and character of the community and the liturgical season. - The sacramentary allows for variety and continuity. - The “theme” of every Mass is Christ’s Passion, death and resurrection. In planning the liturgy we do not develop new themes; we choose to emphasize different aspects of the central mystery and the way it touches our lives.