

Vision for Catechized Students by the end of eighth grade at St. Alphonsus:

Know the meanings of the following and why they are important concepts:

Faith.
Grace.
Being a Christian.

Know the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds and be able to explain the articles in them.

Will know the Nicene Creed by heart.
Will know that God as the creator of the universe.
Will know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, true God and true man.
Will know Jesus' redemptive action of dying and rising for our salvation from sin and death.
Will know that the Spirit is the gift of the Father and the Son.
Will know that the Spirit dwells in and enlivens the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.
Will know our place in the communion of saints with all believers and Mary, the mother of God.
Will know that our destiny is to be risen with Christ and alive with God forever.
Will know what the church teaches about heaven, hell, purgatory and the last judgment.

Be familiar with the Bible and be able to use it for study and prayer.

Be able to distinguish between the Old and New Testaments.
Be able to locate books of the Bible and specific passages.
Be able to tell briefly about the major stories in the Old Testament:

- Creation
- Call of Abraham and covenant with his descendants
- Story of the tribes of Israel, including the story of Joseph
- Captivity in Egypt and liberation in the Exodus under Moses
- The giving of the Law
- The establishment of the monarchy and the stories of David and Solomon
- The importance of the Temple at Jerusalem
- The events of the Exile and return

Be able to tell briefly the story of Jesus' birth, preaching, healings, death and resurrection.
Be able to recount specific stories from Jesus' ministry (including, but not limited to)
His baptism by John
Temptations
Call of disciples
Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes
Preaching the necessity of following him to the cross and resurrection

Miracle of the loaves and the fishes
Healing of the blind and lame
Prodigal Son
Lost sheep/ lost coin
Lazarus and the rich man
Parable of the Talents
Last Supper - institution of the Eucharist and the washing of the feet
Agony in the Garden
Trial and conviction
Crucifixion
Resurrection and resurrection appearances
Ascension

Be able to tell specific stories from the Acts of the Apostles and the life of Paul:

Pentecost
Journeys of apostles to tell the news of Jesus
Call of Paul
Paul's journeys to various cities and the writing of his letters

Be able to locate the psalms, know how they are used for prayer in the church and have practice using them.

Know about and feel that s/he is a member of the Roman Catholic church.

Will know that the marks of the church are that it is one, holy, Catholic and apostolic and what each of these mean.

Will know the imagery of the church as the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Bride of Christ, the Body of Christ and the People of God.

Will know that the vocation of every Christian believer is to become holy.

Will be able to describe how the holy Spirit is active in the church.

Will be able to describe the church's role to worship God, to spread the Gospel, to serve the world.

Will be able to describe how one prepares for ministry in the church.

Know the name of the parish and archdiocese s/he belongs to.

Know the name of the pastor of the parish and ordinary of the archdiocese.

Know the name of the Pope.

Will be able to describe the respective roles of the Pope, archbishop, pastor.

Will know that the bishops are the successors to the apostles.

Will be able to name the other members of the pastoral staff of the parish.

Will know how the parish is connected to the larger church.

Will know how a Pope is chosen.

Will know how the Roman Catholic Church is related to

Eastern Rite churches
Orthodox churches

Protestant churches
Judaism
Islam
Other faiths
non-believers

Will know what is meant by the 'communion of saints.'

Will be able to describe his/her participation in the communion of saints.

Will be able to describe Mary's place in the communion of saints.

Will be able to describe the church's faith in each of these doctrines about Mary:

Mother of God

Immaculate Conception

Virginal conception of Jesus

Assumption

Will be able to describe the traditions surrounding the apparitions of Mary at

Guadalupe

Lourdes

Fatima

Will be able to explain how and why we ask for the intercession of the saints, particularly Mary.

Will be able to explain the devotion to Mary as Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Will be able to briefly tell about who the following saints/heroes in the faith are and their importance:

Abraham and Sarah

Isaac and Rebecca

Jacob, Leah and Rachel

Joseph

Moses

Miriam

Aaron

David

Solomon

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

Elizabeth and

Zechariah

Joseph

John the Baptist

Peter

Mary Magdalene

Paul

James

John

Perpetua and Felicity

Martin of Tours

Augustine

Francis and Clare

Dominic

Elizabeth of Hungary

Ignatius of Loyola

Teresa of Avila

Thomas More

Vincent de Paul

Martin de Porres

Isaac Jogues and John

Brebeuf

Kateri Tekawitha

Alphonsus

Elizabeth Seton

Pierre Toussaint

Katharine Drexel

Therese of Lisieux

Francis Cabrini

Maximilian Kolbe

Pope John XXIII

Dorothy Day

Mother Teresa

Pope John Paul II

Their own patron saints
for baptism and
confirmation

Be familiar with the liturgy of the church

Know the basic structure of the mass: Gathering rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Dismissal.

Know the responses, prayers and acclamations for the mass.

Know a basic repertoire of sung responses.

Know the four main seasons of the church year: when they occur, what they celebrate, how they are marked by the church.

Will know how Catholic Christians observe Lent.

Will know the laws about abstinence and fasting.

Know what Ordinary time is.

Know what the lectionary is and that we read the Scriptures in a 3-year cycle.

Be able to name the main 'furniture' in the church: altar, ambo, font, tabernacle, shrines.

Be able to name the vestments worn by the priest and/or deacon.

Knows what the following ministers do during the liturgy:

Cantor

Lector

Server

Minister of Communion

Know the regulations of the church about worship on Sundays and holy days.

Know the holy days of obligation in the United States.

Will be able to describe the sacramental life of the church:

Will be able to list the sacraments from memory.

Will be able to describe the outward sign and the inner grace of each sacrament.

Will be able to describe what it means to be a fully initiated Catholic.

Will be able to list the sacraments of initiation.

Will be able to describe what happens to us in baptism.

Will be able to describe what the church means by Original Sin.

Will know who is able to baptize and how.

Will know the difference between infant baptism and those over the age of seven.

Will be able to describe what we say we believe in order to be baptized or to renew our baptism.

Will be able to describe what happens to us in Confirmation.

Will know who is able to confirm and how.

Will be able to list the gifts of the Holy Spirit and discuss how they are used in everyday life.

Will be able to list the fruits of the Holy Spirit and discuss how they can be seen in everyday life.

Will be able to describe what the church believes about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Will be able to define 'transubstantiation.'

Will know the meaning of the word 'Eucharist.'

Will be able to describe how one worthily receives the Eucharist.

Will be able to describe the effects of the Eucharist in the life of a Christian.

Will be able to describe how we show reverence for the Eucharist.

Will know the position of the Catholic church about intercommunion with non-Catholics.

Will be able to describe why sacramental confession is necessary.

Will be able to describe the steps in celebrating the sacrament of penance.

Will be able to describe how to prepare to celebrate the sacrament of penance.

Will be able to describe other ways that less serious sins can be forgiven.

Will be able to describe the sacrament of the anointing of the sick and when it is celebrated.

Will be able to explain why marriage is a sacrament.

Will know that the couple are the ministers of the sacrament.

Will be able to describe how Catholics marry and the requirements to marry.

Will be able to describe what Catholics believe about the indissolubility of marriage.

Will be able to describe what an annulment is and why it is sometimes granted.

Will be able to describe the three levels of holy orders.

Will be able to describe what a deacon, a priest and a bishop do.

Will be able to describe how one prepares for ordination.

Will be able to describe how one is ordained.

Have an appreciation of and be able to engage in the prayer of the church and traditional devotions.

Will know the following prayers by heart:

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Hail, Holy Queen

an Act of Contrition

a prayer to say following communion (either the Anima Christi, Prayer of St. Francis, or Take Lord, Receive)

Magnificat

Benedictus

The prayer to the Holy Spirit

Will know how to engage in the Examen at the end of the day.

Will know how to say the Rosary and be able to list each of the mysteries.

Will know how to pray the Stations of the Cross and will be able to identify each one.

Will know the structure of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer of the church.

Will be able to list five common sacramentals and be able to describe how they aid us in prayer.

Will be able to describe why a Christian prays daily.

Will be able to describe the moral tradition of the church:

Will have memorized the Ten Commandments.

Will have memorized the Beatitudes.

Will have memorized the precepts of the church.

Will have memorized the "Law of Love" and be able to relate this to the Commandments.

Will have memorized the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and can give examples of putting each one into practice.

Will be able to describe the moral life in terms of living as a disciple of Christ.

Will be able to describe the moral life in terms of virtues to be lived, not just evils to be avoided.

Will be able to define a grave (mortal) and venial sin and give examples.

Will be able to describe the role of the Spirit in helping to keep us from sin.

Will be able to define the concept of conscience and discuss how one forms one's conscience.

Will be able to give examples of using one's conscience in moral decision making.

Will be able to discuss the relationship between personal action and one's life in the community.

Will be able to discuss the responsibility of each person for the good of the social order.

Will be able to discuss the first commandment and be able to give examples of 'false idols' in our society.

Will be able to discuss the second commandment and be able to give examples of the misuse of God's or Jesus' name.

Will be able to discuss the third commandment:

Will know what keeping the Sabbath means for Jews.

Will know why Christians worship on Sundays.

Will be able to discuss what it means to keep Sundays holy.

Will be able to discuss the fourth commandment:

What it means to respect one's parents.

What it means to respect other lawful authority, including government.

What the obligations are for each person to care for the physical and emotional needs of family members.

Will be able to discuss the fifth commandment:

Why human life is so valued by God.

Why we have no right to take human life through abortion, euthanasia, suicide or assisted suicide, capital punishment.

Why war is always a failure and due to human sin. Why Christians are called to be peacemakers.

Why Christians are obligated to help reduce violence.

Will be able to discuss the sixth commandment:

Why sexuality is a valuable gift from God.

The ends of sexual expression: procreation of children and intimate giving between spouses.

Why all sexual expression is reserved for marriage.

Why pornography, promiscuity and lack of respect for the sexuality of others damages the human community.

Will be able to discuss the seventh commandment:

Why we respect the possessions of others.

Why we need to pay taxes in order to finance common services in our community and nation.

Why everyone is entitled to work for their living.

Why we need to give adequate support for those who can't care for themselves or are unable to find work.

Why we have an obligation to exercise good stewardship of our own money.

Why we have an obligation to share with the poor.

Why we have an obligation to care for the earth.

Will be able to discuss the eighth commandment:

Why honesty is a virtue and lying is a sin.

Why slander and gossip are injurious to other people.

Why we are obliged to speak the truth, even when others don't want to hear it.

Will be able to discuss the ninth and tenth commandments:

Why envy and greed distort the human spirit.

Why envy and greed cause a distorted sense of what one needs.

The difference between what one needs and what one wants.