

Recommended CCD Materials for Programs Designed-by-Grade

“Word of Life” (Parish Edition)

Publisher: Augustine Institute & Ignatius Press

Description: An authentic and comprehensive program for children and parents, providing a complete family faith formation with Word of Life materials and the expansive digital library of the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press.

“Spirit of Truth” (Parish Edition follows a theme over the course of each year) (33 weekly sessions)

Publisher: Sophia Institute

Description: Great resource for well-formed Catechists who want a deep and wide toolbelt of material to choose from to teach. This heavily scripture-based K-8 curriculum will help you take your students on a deep and lasting journey through the Catholic Faith over 33 weekly sessions, but the schedule can be modified to even accommodate an 18-week program. Unlike typical textbooks, Spirit of Truth provides you with a full year of varied and engaging lessons, helping you create a learning environment that captures students’ imaginations while improving knowledge retention.

“Walking with Jesus” (Follows the liturgical calendar and based on the readings at mass)

Publisher: Sophia Institute

Description: Each grade level consists of 24 sessions to be presented within a 45-60 minute class. This curriculum doesn’t spend as much time going through the connections between the different parts of the faith and is much more beginner-friendly for Catechists who still want the valuable wealth of material that Sophia Insitute has come to be known for.

Recommended CCD Materials for Programs with Family-Centered Catechesis

“Family of Faith”

Publisher: Sophia Institute

Description: Whole Family Catechesis, Monthly formation staggered by monthly activities of liturgy, fellowship, and activities (meets every other week on a 4-year cycle). The parents are expected to teach their children two lessons over the course of the month between formation meetings. (Monthly Formation → Parent Lesson at Home → Monthly Activity → Parent Lesson at Home → Repeat)

“Mission Field”

Publisher: Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries

Description: Dynamic and flexible collection of faith formation programs that allow for parishes to choose resources and schedule that best fits the needs of their vision for their families. Faith anf Family Life Catholic Ministries aims to lead parents into personal encounter with Jesus and inspire a desire to go deeper, form parents to have the mind of the Church and the heart of Jesus surrounded by an encouraging community, and equip parents with concrete tools to teach their children the faith at home.

Recommended First Communion Materials for PCLs

First Communion

“Signs of Grace: You Are Loved: (Includes “Presence” for Adults)

Publisher: Ignatius Press

<https://ignatius.com/signs-of-grace-you-are-loved-presence-complete-set-5slx/>

Description: You are Loved DVD Set of 8 Sessions (approx. 35 minutes each): Engaging, well-known presenters (Chris Stefanick, Matt Fradd and more!). Each session includes a short video that is carefully crafted to ease the child into the lesson for the day, helping them become open and excited for what they will learn. Animation, hand-drawn Catholic symbols and graphics, engaging sound, and warm, entertaining presenters meet them at their level and convey the big idea of what is about to be unpacked by their teacher.

“Received”

Publisher: Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/renewed-and-received>

Description: Received: Your Journey to First Communion is a twelve-lesson program that provides everything you need to prepare children to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It features gorgeous live-action videos with stunning animations that help communicate the spiritual dimension of the Faith to children in a way they can easily understand. The program also offers a Student Workbook, a Leader’s Guide, an Online Parent Certification, a take-with-you Mass book, family activity crates, and more.

“The Mass Unit Study”

Publisher: Into the Deep:

<https://intothedeep.co/collections/unit-studies/products/the-mass-unit-study>

Description: A Scripture-heavy catechesis that teaches about the Mass in the full scope of Salvation History. This unit study can be used in whole-family catechesis, during the morning time, or during family devotional time. Ideal ages are 7-15.

Textbooks that include First Communion Preparation

“Word of Life”

Publisher: Augustine Institute & Ignatius Press

Description 2nd-grade parish edition of the Word of Life series, which expands upon the foundations of the “Word of Life” publications to offer a more comprehensive and holistic approach to catechesis and sacramental preparation.

“Spirit of Truth - Our Life in Jesus”

Publisher: Sophia Institute

Description: 2nd-grade parish edition of the Spirit of Truth series designed to facilitate general CCD class as well as preparation for the reception of the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion

Recommended First Reconciliation Materials for PCLs

“Renewed”

Ascension Press:

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/renewed-and-received><https://ascensionpress.com/collections/renewed-and-received>

Description: Renewed: Your Journey to First Reconciliation is a twelve-lesson program that provides everything you need to prepare children to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It features gorgeous live-action videos with stunning animations that help communicate the spiritual dimension of the faith to children in a way they can easily understand. The program offers a Student Workbook, a Leader’s Guide, Online Parent Certification, a take-with-you Reconciliation book, family activity crates, and more.

“Signs of Grace: You Are Forgiven:

Publisher: Ignatius Press <https://thesignsofgrace.org/you-are-forgiven/>

Description: Signs of Grace: You Are Forgiven prepares children to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time by revealing that God is indeed “rich in mercy.” Parent sessions using Award-winning Augustine Institute Studio’s Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession help meet the crucial need for ongoing formation and catechesis for the entire family. The curriculum includes seven sessions.

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Supplements

Our Sunday Visitor’s *My Reconciliation Book* (Bi-Lingual with Spanish edition available)

Recommended Confirmation Materials for PCLs

“Confirmed in the Spirit / Confirmados en El Espiritu” (Bi-Lingual) (*ages 7-12*)

Publisher: Loyola Press

Description: Confirmed in the Spirit is a fully bilingual, comprehensive, and flexible sacramental preparation program designed to welcome and form young people as they grow in faith and embrace their roles as disciples of Jesus Christ. Based on years of extensive research from experts in the field of catechesis and youth ministry, the components are doctrinally sound and use a proven pedagogy created by the Sisters of Notre Dame.

“Purpose”

Publisher: Lifeteen

Description: Purpose is a transformative approach to confirmation. Multiple components combine an impactful curriculum with a powerful digital tool to enhance communication and ease administrative tasks. The Purpose curriculum is 24 sessions with a heavy focus on evangelizing young people and accompanying them as they become disciples. The curriculum addresses three big questions, "Why believe in God?", "Why trust Jesus?" and "Why be a part of the Church?" These questions are supplemented with the Foundations book series, which allows teens to dive more deeply into each. There are four versions of the 24-session curriculum, each adapted for a specific group.

“Signs of Grace: You Are Sent”

Publisher: Ignatius Press

Description: Over 5 sessions, prepares children to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation by helping them discover more deeply the presence and power of the Holy Spirit that they will receive in order to be sent on mission to be witnesses of Jesus. Parent sessions presented by world-acclaimed theologian and teacher Dr. Brant Pitre will help the entire family learn about the powerful and life-changing Sacrament of Confirmation.

“Sealed in Fire” [designed for grades 5-8]

Publisher: Sophia Institute for Teachers

Description: 7 lessons included in a teacher’s guide provides dozens of teacher-written, classroom-tested activities that prepare students to receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The veteran schoolteachers who wrote the lessons included here know firsthand the needs of a classroom. These lessons are “substitute-proof” and are designed in a flexible, modular format.

“Chosen” (7th-11th grades)

Publisher: Ascension Press

Description: Filmed in over fifty locations in the United States and around the world, Chosen features fourteen of the top youth experts in the Church today. Chosen was not only created for teens but also carefully crafted with you, the teacher and facilitator, in mind. We know that you live a busy life. The authors of Chosen, who are teachers themselves, have mapped out comprehensive and flexible lessons so that you can spend more time engaging with your students and less time on planning and logistics

Recommended Theology of the Body Materials for PCLs

“The Body Matters” (K-8)

Publisher: Theology of the Body Evangelization Team

Description: The Body Matters, based on St. John Paul’s life-affirming Theology of the Body (TOB), is a teaching tool intended to assist primary educators (parents) in forming their children, and to be inserted into already-existing curricula at Catholic schools and parish faith formation programs. While not addressing these controversial issues directly, The Body Matters program, infused with St. John Paul’s theology, aims to restore a right understanding of the dignity of the human person and to form families and their children in the truths of the Catholic Faith, precisely through a deeper understanding of the human BODY.

“K-5 TOB for Catechists”

Publisher: Ruah Woods Institute

Description: Each unique, grade-specific 5-lesson package for Catechists draws on a richly illustrated story to help young minds discover the foundational concepts of Pope St. John Paul II’s teaching. Your Catechist’s companion includes everything you need to be ready to guide students through this life-changing training.

“Rooted (Grades 6-8)”

Publisher: Ruah Woods Institute

Description: Our Theology of the Body curriculum for students in grades 6-8, ROOTED, will help your students explore scripture, Pope St. John Paul II’s teaching, and their own dignity in 6 grade-specific, accessible units. Through ROOTED, your students will be able to understand what it means to be made in God’s image, begin to see themselves and others as gifts, and grow their own roots and wings in God’s perfect plan. |

“Called to Be More (9-12)”

Publisher: Ruah Woods Institute

Description: Easy to implement and incorporate 7-10 lessons per semester that mesh easily into common high school theology classes.

Requires no prior Theology of the Body experience. Easy-to-follow foundational lessons you can teach at your own pace and assign online material or print out for in-class discussion.

“You: Life, Love, and Theology of the Body”

Publisher: Ascension

Description: In an age of “selfies” and egocentrism, YOU cuts through the noise to present an authentic view of the human person. It presents young people with the extraordinary story of their creation as unrepeatable individuals. But the program doesn’t stop there. YOU. Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body introduces teens to the truth that life is not, in fact, all about them; it is about going out of themselves to be a sincere gift for others.

Recommended OCIA Materials for PCLs & Coordinators

“Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Study Edition” - by Liturgy Training Publications

“Symbolon” and “Symbolon for Teens” - Augustine Institute

“What We Believe: The Beauty of The Catholic Faith” by Ascension Press

“Chosen” from Ascension Press

“RCIA Leader’s Manual” and “Catechist’s Manual” - The Association for Catechumenal Ministry: <https://acmrcia.org/resources/>

Bi-Lingual/Spanish OCIA Materials

“Bridges to Faith/Puentes a la Fe” by Loyola Press (ages 8-11, but content not likely ideal for 5th grade confirmation)

Journey of Faith/Jornada de Fe, by Ligouri Publications (available in English & Spanish) [Adults/Teens/Kids]

Invitación: La búsqueda de Dios, de uno mismo y de la Iglesia by Paulist NCEA