

# **St. Charles Borromeo**

## **Religious Formation**

### **Program**

**Family Handbook  
2009/2010**

**St. Charles Borromeo  
19251 Chandler Rd.  
Gretna, NE 68028  
402.916.9730  
[www.stcharlesomaha.org](http://www.stcharlesomaha.org)**

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO  
RELIGIOUS FORMATION SCHEDULE  
2009-2010  
Beadle Middle School from 6:30-7:45

August	26	Prayer Service & Meet the Teacher - 7:00
September	2	No Class - Teacher Training
	9	Class & 2nd Grade Parent/Child Retreat
	16	Class
	19	8th Grade Retreat (8 am -noon @ Holy Family Shrine)
	23	Class & 1st Grade Parent/Child Retreat
	30	Class
October	7	Class
	14	No Class
	21	Class
	28	Class & 6th Grade Parent/Child Retreat
November	4	Class
	11	Class & 5th Grade Parent/Child Retreat
	18	Class
	25	No Class
December	2	Class & First Reconciliation
	9	Class
	16	Class
	23	No Class
	30	No Class
January	6	Class & 2nd Grade Parent Meeting
	13	Class & 4th Grade Parent/Child Retreat
	20	Class
	27	Class & 7-8 Grade Family Activity Night
February	3	Class & 3rd Grade Parent/Child Retreat
	10	No Class
	17	Class - Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 - 7:00 - Parents to attend with child Ash Wednesday Mass 7:00 - Parents to attend with child
	20	7th Grade Retreat (1 pm - 3 pm @ St. Patrick's in Gretna)
	24	Class

\*\*The calendar is published annually, listing days of attendance, holidays, and activities. Dates and events may be subject to change as necessary. Timely notice will be provided whenever possible.

March	3	Class
	10	No Class - Teacher Appreciation
	17	Class
	24	Class

	31	No Class - Holy Week
April	7	No Class
	11	First Communion at 9:00 & 11:00 Masses
	14	Class
	21	Class
	28	End of year Prayer Service and Party
May	5	Confirmation @ Valley

\*\*The calendar is published annually, listing days of attendance, holidays, and activities. Dates and events may be subject to change as necessary. Timely notice will be provided whenever possible.

## **PURPOSE OF THE HANDBOOK**

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the basic guidelines necessary to insure good organization and order within our Religious Formation Program and parish community. Our ministry team looks forward to working with your children and helping to form them into mature, responsible Catholics.

Religious Formation in our parish exists as an aide to the parents both in their own lives and in the lives of their children. Aware of the diverse society in which we live our Christian commitment, we at St. Charles Borromeo wish to serve the needs of the individuals of this society, and in particular the needs of the members of our parish family. Particular emphasis in our Religious Formation program is put upon adult involvement and we stress the fact that we can and will only assist parents in their obligation of faith formation for their children. We do not usurp the rights and privileges of the home - for it is in the home that the Christian life must be taught and lived. Indeed, we view parents as the primary catechists of their children, especially in the area of faith.

**Each family is provided a Religious Formation Program Family handbook. It is the responsibility of each family to read the handbook and become familiar with its guidelines.**

## **ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES**

Religious Formation classes for Levels 1-8 are held on Wednesday evenings. Classes meet from 6:30-7:45pm at Beadle Middle School, 18201 Jefferson St. You must be a registered member of the parish to enroll your child(ren) in Religious Formation classes unless approved by the pastor. We ask that children do not arrive earlier than 10 minutes before class time and are picked up promptly at 7:45.

## **CURRICULUM**

### **TEXT BOOKS**

The textbooks used for the program are from Loyola Press and Harcourt Religion. Books for each grade are as follows:

Grades 1 & 3-8: "Finding God"

Grade 2: "Call To Celebrate Reconciliation" and "Call to Celebrate Eucharist"

Confirmation: "Confirmed in the Spirit"

### **CIRCLE OF GRACE**

This is a program required of all RE programs and Catholic schools in the Archdiocese. It helps children to understand their own (and others) dignity in mind, body, and spirit. Its age appropriate lessons include things such as good/bad relationships, safe/unsafe situations, boundaries, etc.

## **ENROLLMENT**

Families who enroll their children in any of the Religious Formation programs must be registered members of the parish before enrollment can take place, unless approved by the pastor. Parish registration forms are available at the Parish Office Building weekdays 8:30a-5:00p and on the parish website at [www.stcharlesomaha.org](http://www.stcharlesomaha.org), under the Religious Formation heading.

Notify the office if your child has a health problem which may affect his/her routine. We will notify the catechist so that he/she is sensitive to any problem that might occur. This should include allergies, hyperactivity, hearing problems, etc.

NOTE: Please help us make this Religious Formation experience enjoyable for your child. Inform the child's catechist of any special situations that exist within your family, such as: pending divorce, health problems of other family members, death of a parent or close relative, etc.

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## **ATTENDANCE-ABSENCES**

To assure continued quality of religious formation for your child/(ren), your assistance is requested by having your child/(ren) on time and present for ALL CLASSES. It is extremely important for your child to be present in the sacramental classes as absences may place your child's sacrament in jeopardy.

For absences a phone call from the parent is requested to the office. If we have not had prior notice, we assume that the child should be in class. We will call you to determine the child's safe whereabouts.

Students must be in their classrooms before class begins. Any student who is late should report to the office before going to class. No student may leave the parish premises during class time or during a parish activity without a note from parents and permission from the office.

Chronic absence and tardiness will be addressed with a call to parents from the Religious Formation Coordinator.

Unexpected absences (personal illness, family emergency or serious illness, inclement weather) should be called in to the Religious Formation Office at 659-0578. Family vacations that will result in absences should also be reported to the Office.

**NOTE: Extracurricular activities of any nature or sponsored by any group DO NOT constitute justifiable absences.**

## **CATECHISTS - VOLUNTEERS**

Many adults share their time and talents with our Religious Formation program children by assisting in classrooms and a variety of other ways. We welcome your offer of assistance: please contact the Religious Formation Coordinator if you would like to help in any way. Catechists receive a yearly stipend equivalent to registration fees. Additional catechist training is also provided at no fee.

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION**

Parents are asked to be active participants in the Religious Formation program. Each family should incorporate meaningful religious rituals in their homes. Children will often bring examples of rituals home with their other work. The times of Advent and Lent can bring the family together in special ways of observing these yearly Church periods.

Parents should assist their child by praying and aiding in memorization of our Catholic prayers. A list of grade appropriate prayers is included in the back of this handbook. Parents also need to assist their child by participation in the weekly Sunday mass and reception of Sacraments.

A practice of making the Sign of the Cross on your child's forehead before he/she leaves for school is a simple but yet meaningful practice of placing your child under God's protection each day. Saying morning prayers and night prayers also reinforces the concept that we live each day for God.

## **DISCIPLINE**

Children enrolled in the Religious Formation program are expected to maintain a high standard of behavior. Our purpose is to encourage and strengthen each child's character in accordance with Catholic principles and to promote order within the classrooms so that an atmosphere of learning may prevail.

Our team consists of catechists and assistants who are volunteers. They give generously of their time, talents and energies and deserve your utmost respect, consideration, and support at all times.

Since the true form of discipline is self-discipline, it is our goal to assist the child in acquiring self-control. Disciplinary actions will be meted out, if necessary, to help the individual grow in this area. Conduct unbecoming a Catholic will not be tolerated. Catechists who see a need for correcting inappropriate behavior in the classroom are asked to do the following:

1. The catechist will correct the child.
2. If there is not improvement and the inappropriate behavior continues, the catechist will correct the child again.
3. If the behavior continues for a third time the catechist will refer the student to the RF Coordinator. Continued inappropriate behavior will result in the parents being notified.
4. The catechist and the RF Coordinator will discuss the conditions for the child's return to the classroom. The parent may need to accompany the child to the classroom and attend classes with the child until the behavior problem is solved.

## **DRESS CODE**

Appropriate dress is expected. In order to have a program conducive to prayerful, learning, and Christian values, some clothing may be deemed inappropriate. For this reason, the following guidelines should be followed: 1) shorts and skirts must be of reasonable length, 2) halter tops and spaghetti straps should not be worn, 3) clothing with inappropriate slogans or graphics, or shorts with wording on the seat should be avoided, and 4) no hats/caps should be worn in the building.

Candy, gum, pop, toys and electronic devices are not allowed in the building. Anything that does not contribute to learning in the classroom should be left at home.

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

Students receive special, intense preparation for Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. This is done in cooperation with the parent/guardian. Students will receive the sacraments only if they are adequately prepared. It is in the best interest of the student that sacramental preparation be done through the RE program, instead of at home. Students preparing for Confirmation must do preparation through the parish.

Students in Gr. 2 ordinarily receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist for the first time. To receive these sacraments a student must have attend the 1st grade. Meetings are scheduled during the year so that parents may review the content of preparation, deepen their own understanding of the sacrament being received, and help prepare their children for receiving these sacraments.

Preparation for Confirmation involves students in Gr. 7-8 and requires candidates to participate in special retreats, additional classes, and service activities. The four areas of catechesis (instruction, service, community and prayer) are incorporated into each year. All students must complete two years of preparation prior to receiving the sacrament. In the Archdiocese of Omaha, students are generally confirmed in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A parent meeting regarding Confirmation is held in the fall for parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Instruction is available for older students who have not received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and First Communion. Please contact the Director or Pastor for more information.

## **VISITORS**

You are welcome to visit your child's room/area during the regular Religious Formation classes if you have made prior arrangements with the catechist. The supervisory staff must also be notified that you will be in the classroom/area.

## **SAFETY**

For the safety of our children, the following guidelines are to be observed by everyone:

1. All drivers should drive safely and slowly. Children arriving by car may be dropped off in the designated loading/unloading areas. Do not expect children to cross traffic. Use the proper unloading areas or park and walk with your children to the building.
2. Parents should be prompt in picking up the children. Children in grades 1-2 will only be dismissed to their parents or designated adult unless written permission otherwise states. Older children (grades 3-8) will be permitted to walk to the parking lot at dismissal. If their parent is not there, these children are to return to the building and wait for their parents. DO NOT pick up your child in the loading/unloading areas in front of the buildings; this becomes an unsafe, congested area.
3. Children are not to bring skateboards, in-line skates, Heelys, or skates of any kind to classes. Bicycles ridden to class need to be stored properly in the provided bike racks. We are not responsible for theft or damage. Bicycle safety rules must be followed at all times. Handicap ramps are strictly off limits unless being used for their intended purpose.

## **BUILDINGS AND PARISH PROPERTY**

Children are expected to assist in the good order of buildings and parish property. Those who deface tables, walls, or any other property (ie. Books, bibles, catechisms) within the church/school buildings or deface the grounds of any buildings will be subject to disciplinary action according to the policy on expulsion. We must be good stewards of these resources.

Please encourage your children to:

1. Conduct themselves properly in the restrooms.
2. Deposit waste papers, etc. in proper receptacles.
3. Respect the property of others.
4. Refrain from chewing gum or eating candy in the building.

**Note: NO EATING OF CANDY OR TREATS IN THE BUILDING. The only exception is the Christmas and End-of-year party.**

## **REASONS FOR PARENT CONFERENCE/PROBATION/EXPULSION**

1. Disrespect toward staff/ministry team members.
2. Cheating, stealing, fighting.
3. Foul or unbecoming language
4. Consistent disruption of class.
5. Drinking, smoking, drugs.
6. Leaving the building/grounds before dismissal.
7. Destroying or defacing property.
8. Any other inappropriate behavior, conduct, or activity that may result in harm to self or others.

## **CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION**

Should you have a concern about a catechist, schedule an appointment to meet with that individual. If you still have difficulties, make an appointment with the Coordinator to meet with both of you. If the situation cannot be resolved, the pastor will be invited to attend a subsequent conference.

## **POLICY REGARDING DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

If a child is found in the possession of drugs or alcohol, whether it is in the act of using, passing, or selling the drug, he/she will be subject to the following regulations:

1. The catechist will refer the child to the RF Coordinator.
2. The parents will be called immediately.
3. The student will be expelled from the Religious Formation program.

Police will be contacted when there is a suspected violation of criminal laws concerning drugs or alcohol.

The Religious Formation Leadership Team members are the final recourse in all disciplinary situations and may waive any disciplinary rule for just cause at his/her discretion.

## **POLICY REGARDING WEAPONS/SEARCH/SEIZURE**

Children are forbidden knowingly and voluntarily to possess, handle, transmit or use any instrument in our Religious Formation program or at Religious Formation activities/events, which is generally considered a weapon.

Any object which could be used to injure another person and which has no Religious Formation related purpose will be considered a weapon for purposes of this code.

The following are examples of instruments ordinarily or generally considered weapons: knives of all types, guns, lead pipes, chains, chuck-sticks, throwing stars, darts, metal knuckles, blackjacks, unauthorized tools, fireworks, explosives or other chemicals.

If a child is found in possession of such a weapon, he/she will be subject to the following regulations:

1. The catechist will refer the child to the RF Coordinator.
2. The parents will be called immediately.
3. A written statement/report will be filed.
4. If the parent/s are unable to be present immediately, the Coordinator will ask the child to cooperate. If search/seizure is necessary, the parent or another adult staff member must be present to witness the search/seizure.

Police will be contacted when there is a suspected violation of criminal laws concerning weapons.

A first offense in violation of weapons policy will result in immediate suspension and may result in expulsion. A second offense in violation of weapons policy will result in immediate expulsion.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

There are times throughout the school year when it may be necessary to cancel classes due to severe weather. Listen to local radio and TV stations for closing announcements.

Religious Formation classes are automatically canceled if Millard Public Schools are canceled for the day due to severe weather. In case of approaching storms later in the evening, listen for announcement of cancellation on local radio and TV stations. If Millard Public School activities are canceled so are RF classes. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the program's Coordinator at 659-0578 or the parish office at 916-9730.

In case of severe weather, children will remain at Beadle Middle School until parents pick them up. Children will be made aware of fire escape plans and severe weather safety plans.

## **IN CONCLUSION**

With cooperation among parents, children and staff, the Religious Formation program year will be a time of learning the Word of God, growth in faith, and sharing in His love. It is our hope that parents will take an active interest in what is being taught to their children and will help their children learn the important lessons that are being taught. May God bless our work and the power of the Holy Spirit be recognized and realized in our lives and that of our Parish Community.

**Any questions or concerns, call the St. Charles Borromeo Coordinator at 659-0578.**

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## ***Faith at Home***

### ***Catholic Family Prayers, Truths, and Traditions***



These pages are not an outline of the Religious Formation Programs of our parish, but are designed as an aid for parents in their responsibility to teach their children the prayers of our Church. Along with the usual prayers are some of the basic truths of our Faith. The prayers, truths and traditions should be memorized and fully understood. Listed below is a guide to parents in teaching your child. The Religious Formation Ministry Team will assist by reviewing with children these prayers as they learn them at home. Your cooperation is needed in this shared responsibility of the Religious Formation of our parish family.

Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

The Sign of the Cross, Grace before meals, and Grace after meals.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

The Lord's Prayer (Our Father), Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

10 Commandments and Act of Contrition

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

The Apostle's Creed and the Rosary (able to pray the Rosary by himself/herself)

4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The Memorare, The Holy Days of Obligation, and the Seven Sacraments

5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The Beatitudes and the Precepts of the Church.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Seven Corporal Works Of Mercy

8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Hail, Holy Queen Act of Faith, Act of Hope, and Act of Love

## **THE SIGN OF THE CROSS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.



## **GRACE BEFORE MEALS**

Bless us, O Lord, and these Your gifts, which we are about to receive, from Your goodness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **GRACE AFTER MEALS**

We give You thanks for all Your gifts, Almighty God, living and reigning now and for ever.  
Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER (OUR FATHER)**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## **THE HAIL MARY**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## **GLORY BE TO THE FATHER**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

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## **AN ACT OF CONTRITION**

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he arose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



## **THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY**

The Five Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The Five Luminous Mysteries

1. The Baptism in the River Jordan
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration of Jesus
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

The Five Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

The Five Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Coming of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Mary
5. The Coronation of Mary

## THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, o Virgin of Virgins, My Mother! To thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

January 1	Mary, Mother of God
40 <sup>th</sup> day after Easter	Ascension
August 15	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
November 1	All Saints
December 8	Immaculate Conception
December 25	Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

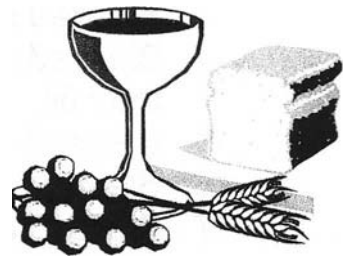
## THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS



BAPTISM is the sacrament of rebirth as a child of God sanctified by the Spirit, of unity with Jesus in His death and resurrection, and of cleansing from Original sin and personal sins, and of welcome into the community of the Church. It permanently relates him or her to God with a relationship that can never be erased. It joins him or her to the priestly, prophetic, and kingly works of Christ through His Church on earth.

CONFIRMATION is the sacrament by which those born anew in baptism now receive the seal of the Holy Spirit, the gift of the Father. Confirmation, as the sealing of the candidate with the Spirit, is linked with the other sacraments of initiation, Baptism and the Eucharist. This sealing of the Spirit prepares us for the witness of a mature Christian life, and for the apostolate of living in the world and extending and defending the Faith.

THE EUCHARIST is a celebration of the Last Supper of Jesus with His Apostles and fulfills the command of Jesus, "Do This in Memory of Me". Through the ministry of priests, Christ perpetuates the sacrifice of the cross in an unbloody manner. In this meal, the underlying reality of bread and wine is changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, Who is then given to us for our spiritual nourishment in communion. Because Jesus is really present in the Eucharist we adore Him in the Blessed Sacrament which is always reserved in our Churches.



**PENANCE (RECONCILIATION)** brings the Catholic God's merciful forgiveness for sins committed after baptism. Sacramental absolution, which follows upon sincere confession of sins, true sorrow, and resolution not to sin again, is a means of obtaining pardon from God. This sacrament also brings about reconciliation with the faith community, the Church, which is wounded by our sin.



**THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** is the sacrament for the seriously ill, infirmed and aged. By this anointing the priest asks the Lord to lighten the sufferings of the sick person, forgive their sins, and bring them to eternal salvation. The Church encourages the sick to offer freely their sufferings to Christ and remind them that the Church is with them in their illness.

**MARRIAGE** is the sacrament whereby man and woman are joined together in an unbreakable bond of married love for the purpose of sharing their mutual love and needs and for the begetting and education of children.

**HOLY ORDERS** in a special way conforms certain members of the people of God to Christ, the Mediator. In this sacrament, they are given a sacred power to guide and shepherd the faith community, proclaim and explain the Gospel, and guide and sanctify God's people by celebrating and administering the Sacraments, primarily the Eucharist.

### **MORNING PRAYER**

My God, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Son's Sacred Heart, for the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of Christians. Amen.

### **EVENING PRAYER**

O my God, I thank you for the gift of this day. Please pardon any evil which I have done and take care of me while I sleep and deliver me from any danger. May your peace be with me and my loved ones. Amen.

### **THE BEATITUDES**

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
5. Blessed are the clean in heart, for they will see God.
6. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
7. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## **PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH**

From time to time the Church has listed certain specific duties of Catholics. Some duties expected of Catholic Christians today include the following:

1. Take part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
2. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year if there is a serious sin.
3. Receive Holy Communion at least once a year during Easter time.
4. Keep holy Sunday and Holy Days.
5. Fast and Abstain from meat on days of penance.
6. Give your time, talents and money to the support of the Church.

## **SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**

1. Advise
2. Instruct
3. Console
4. Comfort
5. Bear wrongs patiently
6. Forgive

## **CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY**

1. Feed the hungry
2. Clothe the naked
3. Visit the sick and imprisoned
4. Shelter the homeless
5. Bury the dead
6. Give alms to the poor

## **GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. Wisdom is the gift by which the Holy Spirit enables us to judge all things as God sees them.
2. Understanding helps us understand better what God has revealed.
3. Courage gives us the courage to do what is right, joyfully, in a difficult situation.
4. Counsel helps us to know what to do in particularly difficult situations.
5. Knowledge enables us to see the things of the world as they really are.
6. Piety helps our worship of God and our regard for people and things connected with God.
7. Awe in God's Presence (Fear of the Lord) strengthens in us the wholesome fear of offending God and being separated from Him who we love.

## **HAIL, HOLY QUEEN**

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, the children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this land of exile. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us; lead us home at last, and show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

## **Act of Faith**

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that Your divine Son became man, died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because you have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

## **Act of Hope**

O my God, relying on Your infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

## **Act of Love**

O my God, I love You above all things with my whole heart and soul, because You are all good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of You. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.