

Religion

Third Grade

The unified content reference used for the religion curriculum comes from *Handing on the Faith* which is the Diocese of Birmingham's adaptation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This serves as the content, doctrinal, and theological basis for all programs offered in the diocese. The reference statements and citations are clustered around the four pillars of the *Catechism* for each level and are intended for the reflection, guidance, and direction of the teachers handing on the faith in these particular areas. Through the use of *Handing on the Faith*, the religion textbook and the teacher's personal interpretations and experiences the students are provided with an in-depth study of Catholicism and their faith. Religion is not only a subject which is studied, but an integration of Catholic faith and values which permeates throughout every aspect of daily life in the school.

The four pillars of the *Catechism* which the reference statements are based on are:

1. The Profession of Faith
2. The Celebration of the Christian Mystery
3. Life in Christ
4. Christian Prayer

The teachers are also asked to give students a variety of prayer experiences and forms. Some examples are:

- Weekly student liturgy
- Training and experience in liturgy and mass participation
- Daily prayer at the beginning and end of each school day, as well as several times in between
- Opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation frequently
- Seasonal experiences of traditional prayers (depending on grade): Advent wreath, Jesse tree, Stations of the Cross, rosary, May crowning etc.
- Apostles' Creed
- Twelve Apostles
- Four marks of the Catholic church