



The eighth-grade program of the *Christ Our Life* series is devoted to the study of God's faithful love as it is revealed in the Church founded by Jesus Christ. *The Church Then and Now* is designed to help young teens grow in their knowledge and love of the Church.

Unit	Chapter	Theme	Scripture	CCC References
1 The Mystery of the Church The students will deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Church.	1. A Community of Disciples	The Church is the community of disciples, the Body of Christ, loved and redeemed by Christ.	Luke 13:20–21; John 10:1–16; John 15:1–8; 1 Corinthians 12:12–31; Mark 16:15	781–798, 829, 963–975
	2. Tracing Our Roots	The Church, which began with God's Chosen People, includes all the living and dead who have responded to God's love.	Acts of the Apostles 2:1–13; Luke 18:16	120–133, 836–848, 2041, 2043, 2180
	3. A Closer Look	The Church—the community of disciples—is a herald of the Good News, a sacrament, an institution, a servant, and a mystical communion.	Acts of the Apostles 1:24–26, 2:38, 2:46–47, 4:32, 5:42, 6:2–3, 11:28–29; Isaiah 42:6	774–776, 787–791
	4. A People of Prayer	The Church deepens its relationship with God through prayer, especially the eucharistic liturgy and the Liturgy of the Hours.	Matthew 5:44; Matthew 6:9; Mark 1:35; Luke 11:9; Psalms 5:2–3	1070–1073, 1174–1178, 1343–1344, 1396, 2607–2616
	5. A People of Service	The love of Christ is shown in the service that Church members give as they live the Beatitudes and perform works of mercy.	Matthew 5:3–10; Matthew 10:8; Matthew 25:31–46; 1 Corinthians 12:4–6; Ephesians 2:19–22	799–801, 876, 951, 1716–1719, 2003
2 The Marks of the Church The students will grow in their understanding of the four marks of the Church—one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.	6. One in the Spirit	The Church is one in faith, worship, governance, and charity.	Acts of the Apostles 4:32; Ephesians 4:1–3; 1 Corinthians 12:12–20	791, 811–822, 834, 864
	7. Made Holy in the Spirit	The Church is holy in Jesus its founder, in its mission, and in its members who are all called to holiness.	Isaiah 11:1–3; Leviticus 19:1–2	737–739, 768, 823–829
	8. A Church That Is Catholic	The Church is catholic, or universal: for all people of all nations and all times.	Luke 14:15–24; Matthew 28:18–20; 1 Corinthians 9:22–23	830–856
	9. An Apostolic Church	The Church is apostolic, carrying on the faith and the mission of the apostles under the apostles' successors.	Acts of the Apostles 1:15–26; Acts of the Apostles 2:42	857–865, 880–892
3 The History of the Church: Part I The students will be able to identify key people and events in the Church's history.	10. The First Years	After the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the faith spread from Jerusalem to Rome, from Jews to Gentiles, despite persecution.	Acts of the Apostles 5—10, 15; John 16:23	848–850, 861–862
	11. The Church Grows	Led by the efforts of Peter and Paul, the early Church grows and gives witness to Jesus Christ.	Acts of the Apostles 9:1–22, 22:2–16, 26:9–18; Acts of the Apostles 10; Acts of the Apostles 15; Galatians 1:15–17; Romans 15:21	179, 183, 747, 1486, 1490, 2505–2506
	12. A House Built on Rock	After the persecutions, the Church, faced with heresy, clarified its beliefs through the councils and through the teachings of the Church Fathers.	Psalms 62:2–3; John 15:20	461–478, 770–771, 817, 914–924, 2089
	13. A Light in Darkness: Part I	Strong popes, monks, and holy men and women helped preserve civilization and the faith during invasions from northern tribes.	Matthew 5:14–16; John 8:12	817, 873, 920–921, 925–927, 2089
	14. A Light in Darkness: Part II	The Church often served as a beacon of light during the Middle Ages.	John 17:21; Matthew 5:14–16; Matthew 22:37	866–867, 937, 2133–2134
4 The History of the Church: Part II The students will be able to identify key people and events in the Church's history.	15. The Church Faces Challenges	A worldly Church gave rise to the Protestant Reformation.	Matthew 28:20; Matthew 16:18; John 14:16,26	843–847, 1471–1479
	16. Reforming the Church	The Church undertook its own reform in the Council of Trent.	Luke 21:15; Philemon 20	817–821
	17. In a Changing World	The Church responded to a changing world.	Psalms 139:13–17; Matthew 25:35–37,40	884, 891, 1901–1904, 1938–1942
	18. Signs of the Times	The Church responded to the Industrial Revolution with concern for those who were poor and oppressed.	Luke 10:29–37; James 2:18	1895, 1921, 1925, 1943–44, 1947, 2250, 2451–52, 2254, 2458, 2461
	19. The Church in North America	After difficult beginnings, the Church in North America flourished when freedom of religion was granted.	Luke 9:1–6; Luke 1:26–38; Ephesians 1:22–23	2104–2109
5 The Witness of the Church The students will realize what it means to live a Christian life. They will desire to live by Christ's moral standards.	20. The Way of Holiness	In answering our call to holiness, we are helped by virtue and hindered by vice.	1 John 4:8; John 14:6; John 13:34	1768, 1805–1813, 2013–2014
	21. The Way of Faith	God is to be loved above everyone and everything, and God's name honored. (First and Second Commandments)	Exodus 20:2–7; Matthew 22:37	2083, 2132, 2142–2155
	22. The Way of Worship	Sunday is to be a day for worship and rest.	Exodus 20:8; Psalm 95	2168–2188
	23. The Way of the Family	God commands us to obey lawful authority and to respect human life. (Fourth and Fifth Commandments)	Exodus 20:12–13; Luke 10:29–37; Acts of the Apostles 5:29; Ephesians 3:14,17	2196–2246, 2258–2317
	24. The Way of Human Dignity	Sex is to be respected and used only when it is a sign of the permanent commitment of marriage. (Sixth and Ninth Commandments)	Exodus 20:14,17; Matthew 5:27–28; John 15:12; John 15:13–14; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20	2331–2391, 2514–2527
	25. The Way of Justice and Truth	The human rights to own property and to know the truth are to be respected. (Seventh, Eighth, and Tenth Commandments)	Exodus 20:15–17; Matthew 25:31–40,45; John 14:1–7	2401–2449, 2464–2503, 2534–2550

The students should • come to a deeper understanding of the Church by studying its images, history, and members. • grow in love for Catholic beliefs and ritual and strive to respond to God’s love through Christian morality, service, prayer, and witness.

Prayer in this grade • Reflective prayer
• The Liturgy of the Hours

Catholic Social Teaching Themes	Words Learned	Saints and Holy People*
Family and Community, Rights and Responsibilities, Life and Dignity	Church, Communion of Saints, mystery, Second Vatican Council, sanctify	Mary, Mother of the Church; Saint Hedwig
Solidarity	Buddhism, Islam (Muslims), Justification, New Testament, Old Testament, Paschal Mystery, purgatory, salvation history, Scripture	Saint: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John; Abraham, King David; Saint Teresa of Avila
Family and Community, The Poor and Vulnerable, Solidarity	canon law, Pentecost	Avery Dulles; Saint Robert Bellarmine
God’s Creation, Family and Community, The Poor and Vulnerable, Work and Workers	Liturgy, Liturgy of the Hours, prayer	Mary, Mother of the Church; Saint Thérèse of Lisieux; Saint John Paul II; Saint John Vianney
The Poor and Vulnerable, Rights and Responsibilities, Family and Community, God’s Creation	Beatitudes, Corporal Works of Mercy, vocation, witness	John Henry Newman; Saint Lawrence
Solidarity, Life and Dignity, Family and Community	apostolic, catholic, ecumenism, holy, Marks of the Church, one	Saint Clement I
Family and Community, Life and Dignity, Solidarity, Rights and Responsibilities, God’s Creation, The Poor and Vulnerable	Counsel, Doctor of the Church, fear of the Lord, fortitude, knowledge, piety, Sacraments at the Service of Communion, Sacraments of Healing, Sacraments of Initiation, understanding, wisdom	Saint: Thomas More, Catherine of Siena, Angela Merici, John Chrysostom, Clare of Assisi, Ambrose; Blessed Miguel Pro; Venerable Barney Casey
Life and Dignity, Solidarity	culture, interreligious dialogue	Saint: Katharine Drexel, Damien, Francis Xavier; Charles de Foucauld, Mother Teresa
Family and Community, Life and Dignity, The Poor and Vulnerable, Work and Workers, Solidarity, Rights and Responsibilities, God’s Creation	bishop, collegiality, diocese, infallibility, pope	Saint: Peter, Blessed John XXIII, John Paul II, Catherine of Siena; Leo XIII, Benedict XV, Pius XI, Pius XII, Paul VI, Benedict XVI
Solidarity, Life and Dignity, Family and Community, The Poor and Vulnerable	epistle, deacon, martyr	Saint: Peter, Paul, Stephen, Perpetua
Family and Community, Solidarity, Rights and Responsibilities, The Poor and Vulnerable, Life and Dignity	Council of Jerusalem, ecumenical council	Saint: Peter, Paul, Ignatius of Antioch
Rights and Responsibilities, Solidarity, Life and Dignity, Family and Community, The Poor and Vulnerable	heresy, poverty	Saint: Anthony of Egypt, Pachomius, Ignatius of Antioch, Cyprian, Athanasius, Ambrose, Basil, John Chrysostom, Jerome, Monica, Augustine; Sister Dorothy Kazel
The Poor and Vulnerable, Family and Community, Work and Workers, Rights and Responsibilities, Solidarity, Life and Dignity	virtue	Saint: Pope Gregory the Great, Pope Gregory VII, Benedict, Augustine of Canterbury, Boniface, Margaret of Scotland, Cyril, Methodius, Wenceslaus
Life and Dignity, Family and Community, The Poor and Vulnerable, God’s Creation	excommunication, Mendicant Order, schism, spirituality, <i>Summa Theologiae</i>	Saint: Dominick, Francis of Assisi, Gregory the Great
Life and Dignity, The Poor and Vulnerable, Solidarity, Rights and Responsibilities	annulment, indulgences, Protestant Reformation	Saint: Catherine of Siena, Ignatius of Loyola
Solidarity, Life and Dignity, The Poor and Vulnerable	meditation	Saint: Charles Borromeo, Teresa of Ávila, Thomas More, John Fisher, Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, John of the Cross
The Poor and Vulnerable, Life and Dignity, Rights and Responsibilities, Solidarity	rationalism	Saint: Vincent de Paul, Julie Billiart; Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher
Work and Workers, The Poor and Vulnerable, Rights and Responsibilities, Life and Dignity, Solidarity, Family and Community, God’s Creation	encyclical	Saint: Thérèse of Lisieux, Francis de Sales, Joseph the Worker, Jane de Chantal, Margaret Mary Alacoque, John Bosco; John XXIII, John Paul II; Blessed: Leo XIII, Benedict XVI
Solidarity, Work and Workers, The Poor and Vulnerable, Life and Dignity, Rights and Responsibilities, God’s Creation	Immaculate Conception	Saint: Juan Diego, Elizabeth Ann Seton, John Neumann, Frances Xavier Cabrini, Rose of Lima; John Carroll, James Gibbons, Dorothy Day
God’s Creation, The Poor and Vulnerable, Life and Dignity, Solidarity, Rights and Responsibilities, Family and Community	capital sins	Saint: Isidore, Maria de la Cabeza, Augustine
God’s Creation, Life and Dignity, Solidarity	sacrifice, sacrilege, vow	Saint Hilary
Work and Workers, Solidarity, Family and Community	holy day of obligation, liturgical year, Lord’s Day, Sabbath	Saint Paul of the Cross
Rights and Responsibilities, Family and Community, Solidarity, Life and Dignity, Work and Workers	obedience	Saint Francis de Sales
Life and Dignity, Family and Community, Rights and Responsibilities	chastity, Matrimony	Saint: Maria Goretti, Thomas More
Work and Workers, Family and Community, God’s Creation, The Poor and Vulnerable, Solidarity, Life and Dignity, Rights and Responsibilities	calumny, detraction	Saint Louis of France

*Information on more saints and holy people can be found in Saints and Feast Days, pages T445–T492.