**FAMILY LIFE CURRICULUM**

**Grades K-8 Benzinger Family Life Series**

As part of the elementary and middle school curriculum and as required by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Benzinger Family Life series is used in our program. The sessions are covered during the months of January and February. This series focuses on God’s gifts of family, self, life, love and community. Child protection is also covered and discussed in age appropriate manners. In grades five and six, the human reproduction segment is sent home to the parent/guardian.

**Grades 9 – 12 – Created to Love**

As part of the high school curriculum and as required by the Archdiocese of Baltimore the Created to Love series is used in our program. Separate sessions during the months of January and February will cover the material. This program focuses on healthy relationships and an understanding of the need of a family environment of love, virtue and respect for the gifts of God. Child protection is also covered and discussed in age appropriate manners. Created to Love course is taught every three years.

**Our Lady of the Mountains**

**Religious Education Curriculum**

**Grades Pre-school – Grade 8: Pflaum Gospel Weeklies**

The Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Curriculum connects catechetical lessons to Sunday Mass with the Sunday Gospel being the heart of each lesson. Each student will receive a lesson booklet, that is different each week, and a catechism handbook that are both at age appropriate levels. The catechism handbook is titled “What the Church Believes and Teaches.” The title of the booklets are as follows:

Preschool - Seeds

Grades K-1 Promise

Grades 2-3 Good News

Grades 4,5,6 Venture

Grades 7,8 Visions

Each lesson has three parts:

**Part 1 – Sharing Our Life Stories**

Interesting real-life stories, fun activities and children’s/teen’s own life experiences are used to help prepare them for the Gospel and the Catholic doctrine lessons.

**Part 2 – Listening to the Gospel**

Children/Teens proclaim, dramatize, and celebrate God’s Word for that Sunday. After reading and discussing the Gospel, Catholic doctrine concepts and teachings that flow from the Gospel will be explored.

**Part 3 – Building Christian Community**

Young people are encouraged to put the Gospel to work in their lives. Parish activities and community service are suggested. Information from the handbook “What the Church Believes and Teaches” will also be integrated during this part.

**Grades 9 – 12**

The High School curriculum will use “Ascend,” a companion to the Sunday Mass readings, by Life Teen. As the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies, Ascend will also connect catechetical lessons to the liturgy, with God’s Word as the center. Each student will receive the Ascend booklet which covers the Sunday readings for the entire liturgical year.

Included with each Sunday lesson is some background information about the Scriptures for that Sunday, word definitions, facts about the narratives, focused questions for journaling reflection and a challenge.

**What we speak, powerful as it may seem, will one day pass away. Our words will be forgotten, but God’s Word will remain. The Word of God endures forever.**