**Our Lady of the Mountains**

**Faith Formation Curriculum**

**Grades K – 6: Sadlier “We Believe”**

A program built on the six tasks of catechesis with the objective of the formation of disciples of Jesus Christ. These six tasks of catechesis are:

1. LEARN – learning about Jesus, Catholic Faith, Scripture and Tradition
2. CELEBRATE – celebrate faith by learning about and participating in liturgy and the sacraments
3. CHOOSE – choosing to follow Jesus’ teaching and example, and living the commandments and Beatitudes promoting moral formation.
4. PRAY – pray to God – Father, Son and Spirit every day in many ways.
5. SHARE – prepares to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church, which is to share the Good News of Jesus.
6. LIVE – live out the faith by giving witness to the life and teachings of Jesus through words and deeds.

**KINDERGARTEN**

**Book: God Made the World**

Unit 1: God Gives Us Many Gifts; Unit 2: God Is Our Creator; Unit 3: Jesus Shows Us God’s Love; Unit 4: Jesus Wants Us to Share God’s Love

**GRADE 1**

**Book: God Loves Us**

Unit 1: Jesus Teaches Us About God’s Love; Unit 2: We Are Followers of Jesus; Unit 3: We Belong to the Church; Unit 4: We Celebrate and Live Our Faith

**GRADE 2**

**Book: Jesus Shares God’s Life**

Unit 1: Jesus Christ is With Us; Unit 2: Jesus Calls Us to Penance and Reconciliation; Unit 3: Jesus Gives Himself in the Eucharist; Unit 4: We Live Out Catholic Faith

**GRADE 3**

**Book: We Are the Church**

Unit 1: Jesus Gives Us the Church; Unit 2: We Are Members of the Church;

Unit 3: The Church Leads Us in Worship; Unit 4: We Are Called to Discipleship

**GRADE 4**

**Book: God’s Law Guides Us**

Unit 1: Growing in Jesus Christ; Unit 2: The Commandments Help Us to Love God; Unit 3: The Commandments Help Us to Love Others; Unit 4: We Are Called to Holiness

**GRADE 5**

**Book: We Meet Jesus in the Sacraments**

Unit 1: Jesus Christ Shares His Life With Us; Unit 2: Confirmation and Eucharist Complete Our Initiation; Unit 3: The Sacrament of Healing Restore Us:

Unit 4: We Love and Serve As Jesus Did

**GRADE 6**

**Book: We Are God’s People**

Unit 1: Forming the Covenant; Unit 2: Building the Covenant Nation;

Unit 3: Redefining the Covenant People; Unit 4: The Covenant Fulfilled in Jesus

**Grades 7 and 8 – St. Mary’s Press “Catholic Connections”**

This middle school program includes six courses each with its own Catechist guide that consists of hands-on, active learning sessions. The students have a faith handbook, “The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers,” that they use for both of these grades.

Fostering the faith of young adolescents involves helping them to make connections between the Catholic faith and everyday life. It also means helping young people to strengthen their connection to the faith community and enter more fully into the life of the community. Catholic Connections aims to strengthen the participants’ Catholic identity and inspire them to participate more fully in the Church’s mission.

**GRADE 7**

Three courses: God, Revelation and Faith; Jesus the Christ; The Holy Spirit and the Church – each course has seven chapters and three optional chapters.

**GRADE 8**

Three courses: Sacraments and Prayer; The Eucharist; Christian Morality and Justice – each course has seven chapters and three optional chapters.

**Grades 9 – 12**

**GRADE 9 – Loyola Press “Called to Be Catholic”**

This program instructs and reacquaints young people with the fundamentals of

the Catholic Faith. The goal is to help them know what it means to be Catholic, spark a desire to further investigate their faith, and grow in their relationship with God. There are ten chapters, each one focusing on a topic of the basics of our faith. Called to Be Catholic is used in conjunction with the program Confirmed in the Spirit, which is used for Confirmation preparation.

**GRADES 10 – 12 – St. Mary’s Press “Horizons” Series**

The Horizons Program is designed for high school level and utilizes a module system with seven core courses on central and foundational faith themes and a wide array of minicourses on topics close to teens hearts. Horizons is an innovative, comprehensive approach to religious education. Its foundation is in teacher-led, creative learning strategies that give students ample opportunities for discussion and reflection.

Topics for the curriculum will be from the following books from the Horizon series:

Core courses: The Church: It’s Wisdom, Works and Worship

 Encounters with Jesus in the Gospels

Minicourses: Christian Meditation for Beginners

 Live Giving Relationships

 Stewardship: Creating the Future

 Young Adult Faith

 Senior Year: Last Things and Lasting Thing

 Moving On: Embracing the Future

Additionally, the Student Leadership Training Manual by Youth Specialties will be used.

**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.