

“Go and Make Disciples”

Living the Great Commission

(Religious Studies – Roman Catholic)

High school religious education classes should ideally expand upon the knowledge gained during primary and middle school. Due to the diverse backgrounds and experiences of students, teachers may face the challenge of addressing gaps in understanding by revisiting concepts that were overlooked or misinterpreted. For some students, these courses may serve as their initial exposure to the Catholic faith.

The Christian faith is rooted in God's love and grace, revealed through Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, guiding our lives as disciples who actively respond to this divine relationship. Discipleship involves a conscious commitment to deepening one's faith, continually questioning beliefs and their impact on ourselves and others. Catholic teachings enhance our understanding of discipleship, emphasizing service, self-awareness, peace-building, interfaith dialogue, and the embodiment of God's love. As Christian disciples, we engage enthusiastically in God's work alongside fellow believers, striving to reflect Christ's presence in our daily lives. Ultimately, a Christian disciple embodies Gospel values, with the foundational stories of Scripture—especially the Exodus and the death and resurrection of Jesus—shaping our beliefs and guiding our moral, liturgical, and spiritual practices.

Religious Studies courses aim to cultivate both understanding and abilities, while also nurturing the attitudes and values associated with faith that reflect the Catholic perspective in the world. These courses encourage students to participate in discussions that bridge the Catholic faith and cultural contexts.

“Go and Make Disciples”: Living the Great Commission is the Program of Religious Studies (Roman Catholic) for Alberta Catholic Schools. In each course, RS 15, RS 25, and RS 35, the general outcomes are developed through specific learning outcomes and recommended resources.

Religious Studies (Roman Catholic) 15 – Christ and Culture

The principal aim of *Christ and Culture* is to assist students, with the help of the Gospel, to participate as Christians in the shaping of our culture. The program explores major cultural issues from an Christological perspective. Beginning with their own life experiences, students acquire a deeper and more systematic knowledge of themselves, Christ's message, and the Church. Connections between the Church and contemporary culture are explored in terms of what it means to be a responsible adolescent developing as a member of a Catholic, Christian community while living within the context of a broader culture. For 20% of the course students will study how the stories, signs, symbols, and rituals from other World Religions and Canada's Indigenous communities have influenced cultures both in Canada and throughout the world.

Religious Studies (Roman Catholic) 25 – Jesus Christ: God’s Gift of Salvation *Jesus Christ:*

God's Gift of Salvation invites students to deepen their relationship with Jesus through a study of Scripture. Students will explore the Jewish historical, religious, and cultural world into which the Messiah was born, and the Old Testament covenant fulfilled. Using the Gospels as primary sources, the course explores Jesus' birth, early life, and ministry; his preaching of the Kingdom of God; his special teachings, particularly the parables; and his miracles. It then focuses on the scriptural accounts of his death and Resurrection, and the Ascension, and their central significance for the church's understanding of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. In addition to the study of the history of the Jewish faith, students will study salvation doctrines of other World Religions, as well as the way that contemporary Christians (both Catholic and from other Christian traditions) cooperate to total 20% of the course.

Religious Studies (Roman Catholic) 35 – In Search of the Good

In Search of the Good challenges students to understand themselves as moral persons called to discipleship by living the way of Christ. Through an examination of ethical theories, the revelation of Sacred Scripture, and the lived experience and teaching of the Catholic Church, the course invites students to mature as active participants in their faith. At the heart of catechesis is the human search for happiness as the completion of the superabundant love of God. The same tension which exists between the revelation of God's love and the explorations of human reason are worked out in the areas of freedom, justice, human relations, ecology, and reconciliation, life in community and political life. For 20% of the course, students will learn how other World Religions understand their own sacred texts as guides to moral living, plus how they approach current moral issues.

Rel 15, 25, 35 Christian Service: Charity, Justice, and the Common Good

The Sacraments serve as a tangible representation of God's unseen grace, and as Christians, we are also called to embody that sacramental presence in the world, demonstrating God's eternal love for His people. The message of the Gospel is intended to be lived out actively! The Church refers to her mission of social ministry with the terms charity and justice. While these concepts are closely linked, charity and justice represent two unique ways to respond to the call to enrich life in the world.