



# 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Religion

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Howdy!

I hope this letter finds you well and excited for a great year at OLG! This school year marks my 9<sup>th</sup> year of teaching middle school Religion at Our Lady of Grace. While my position at OLG certainly helps put bread on the table and pay off the bills, I can honestly say that the reason I'm teaching religion is because I feel like it's what God has called me to do. Lucky for me, I get to spend time laughing, praying, and learning with amazing kids each and every day!

Each year I tell my students what goals I have as their Religion teacher. Every year they are always the same:

1. To help you become the *saint* God has called you to be.
2. To teach you a TON about our awesome Catholic faith.

In essence, I want all of my students (and myself!) to become **"BIG-TIME SAINTS"** and **"MINI-THEOLOGIAN"**!

Please keep my students and I in your prayers this year and know that you and your family will be in mine as well.

In Christ,  
Greg Aitchison

*The following is a run-down of the main units covered during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Religion.*

1. **1<sup>st</sup> Days of School** – Outlining our Religion class goals and discovering how to best accomplish them.
2. **The Bible Ditty** – Exploring the basic makeup of the Bible and memorizing all 73 books in order through a fun song and dance.
3. **Biblical Basics** – An overview of the Bible's makeup and development, how it's meant to be read, and its relevance for us today.
4. **Memory Verses** – Memorizing 10 Scripture passages and discovering the spiritual riches they provide for daily Christian living.
5. **Church History** – A look at the most significant events of history (His-Story) from creation to today.
6. **Family Life** – Seeing the importance of family relationships and friendships in light of a thoroughly Catholic definition of love.
7. **Diagnosing the Culture** - Examining the American worldview and popular culture in light of the teachings of Christ.
8. **The Existence of God** – Learning 10 arguments for the existence of God and how to respond to the most common counter-arguments given today.
9. **Jesus** – Delving into the life, death, and resurrection of the most loved, hated, and misunderstood person in all of human history.
10. **The Saints** – Examining the lives of some of the Church's most famous saints and our own call to holiness.
11. **Catholic Social Teaching** – An overview of the Church's social principles and how to apply them to our own lives.
12. **The Theology of the Body** – The Church's teachings on love, relationships, and chastity through St. John Paul the Great's *Theology of the Body*.
13. **Extras** – Bible Booyas, Christian Ear Snacks, Examining Pop Culture, Quote Dogs, Yay Gods, Service Hours, Reconciliation, Holy Days & Seasons, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Courage Retreat, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Lifeline Retreat.