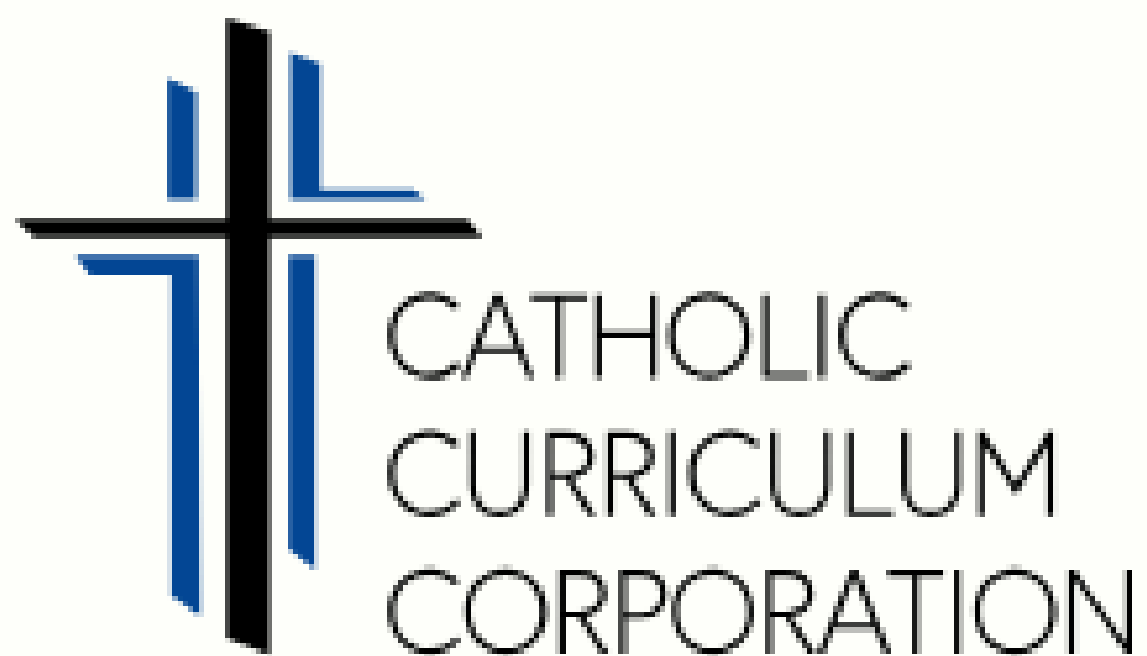




**Faith in Every Word:
A Journey Through Morphology and Meaning
for Grade 1-8 Classrooms**



2025

Catholic Curriculum Corporation

Catholic Curriculum Corporation

Opening Message

Our Purpose

The Catholic Curriculum Corporation is a consortium of seventeen Catholic school boards across central and western Ontario. As an important partner in Catholic education, we recognize that Catholic education exists to provide a holistic formation of people as living witnesses of faith. We demonstrate our mission when we engage with, and support, our member boards in sustained, substantive school improvement and student growth that is reflective of a Catholic professional learning community.

Our Mission

Our mission is to build and sustain the Catholic capacity of educators through the development and provision of high quality Catholic curriculum, resources, support and professional development.

Our Vision

Faith Through Learning – A Distinctive Catholic Curriculum

Message from the Executive Director

On behalf of the Catholic Curriculum Corporation, I would like to thank Robert Cannone, project lead, and the team of contributors from York, Halton, Windsor-Essex and Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Boards for their expertise and dedicated efforts in producing this resource. Thanks are also extended to Grant McMurray for his guidance as Curriculum Manager.

As morphology takes a more explicit place in the Ontario Language curriculum, Catholic teachers are asking for resources that meet these expectations within authentically Catholic contexts and texts. *Faith in Every Word* is a practical and inspiring companion, one that helps students see how meaning is built, one morpheme at a time, and how words can deepen both their literacy and their faith. Once again, I offer sincere thanks to those who have supported our teachers with this resource. I wish continued success to all who use this resource while sharing and celebrating our Catholic mission in education.

Ab Falconi,
Executive Director



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“For the Word of God is living and active.” -Hebrews 4:12

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Editor	Grant McMurray Curriculum Manager, Catholic Curriculum Corporation

RATIONALE

As morphology takes a more explicit place in the Ontario Language curriculum, Catholic teachers are asking for resources that meet these expectations within authentically Catholic contexts and texts.

Research supports this shift: explicit instruction in morphology strengthens decoding of multisyllabic words, deepens vocabulary, improves spelling, and boosts comprehension. These are benefits that are especially powerful for multilingual learners and for disciplinary literacy across subjects.

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RATIONALE continued...

As Catholic educators, through the Religious Education curriculum and the lived experiences of our faith, be it in Church, school, and home; in Scripture, liturgy, and the sacraments, we come across words whose meanings carry theological and human significance. Terms like *intercede* (*inter* “between” + *cedere* “to go/yield”), *reconciliation* (*re-* “again/back” + *conciliare* “to bring together”), *Eucharist* (*eu* “good” + *charis* “gift/grace”), and *evangelize* (*eu* “good” + *angelion* “message/news”) are not only central to our tradition; they are rich entry points for word study that forms both literacy and faith.

PROJECT ASPIRATION

Faith in Every Word is a resource created in response to the research, to teachers' expressed needs, and to the Catholic Graduate Expectations that call us to nurture articulate, reflective disciples. This resource offers ready-to-teach lesson sequences, GIF animations, and matrices drawn from Catholic vocabulary, etymology notes tied to Scripture and the liturgical year, practice with prefixes/suffixes/base words across grades, and parish extensions.

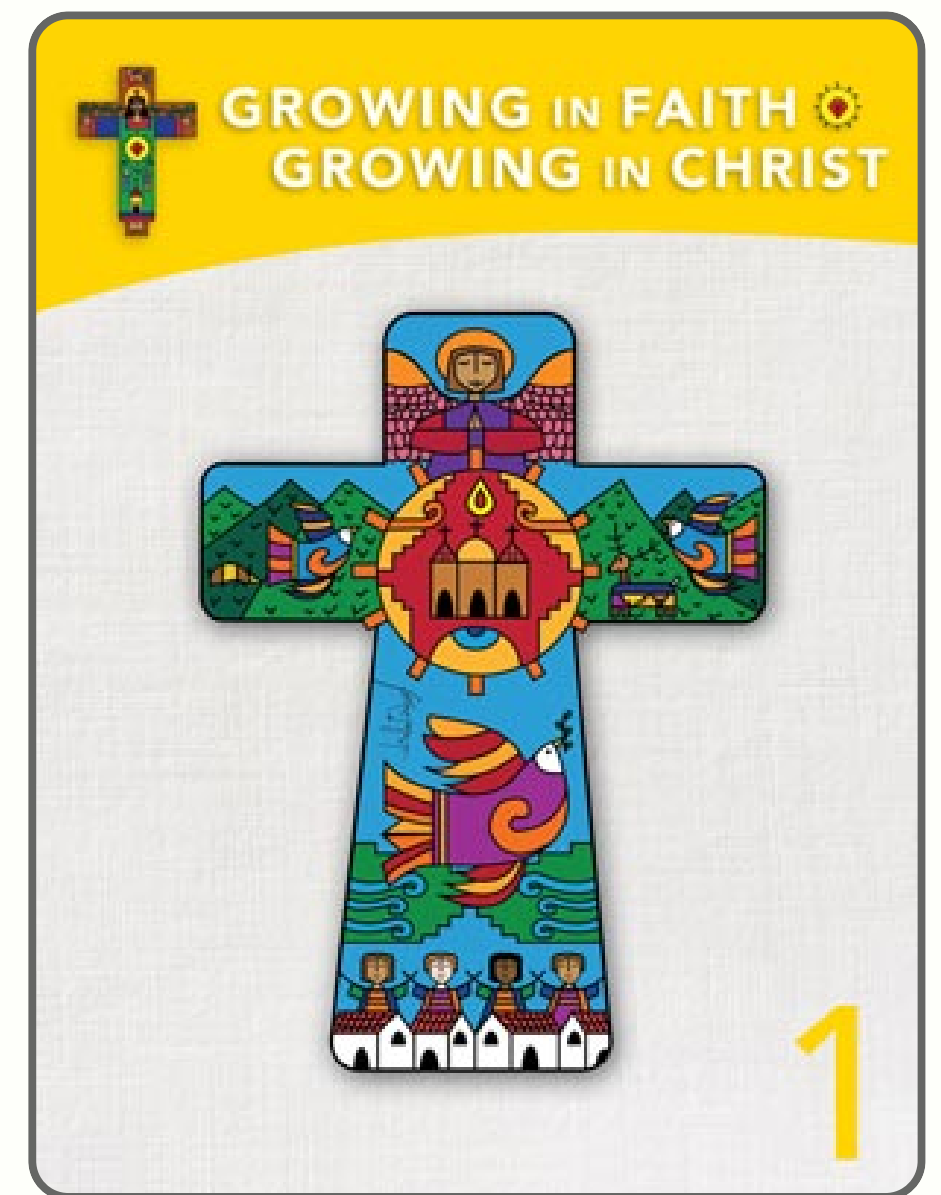
These lessons are designed to complement and enhance your Language program, offering explicit connections to both the Ontario Language and Religious Education curricula. They are *not* meant to replace existing instruction, but to enrich it with meaningful, faith-rooted opportunities for word study. We hope you will find *Faith in Every Word* a practical and inspiring companion, one that helps students see how meaning is built, one morpheme at a time, and how words can deepen both their literacy and their faith.

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LESSON ORGANIZATION


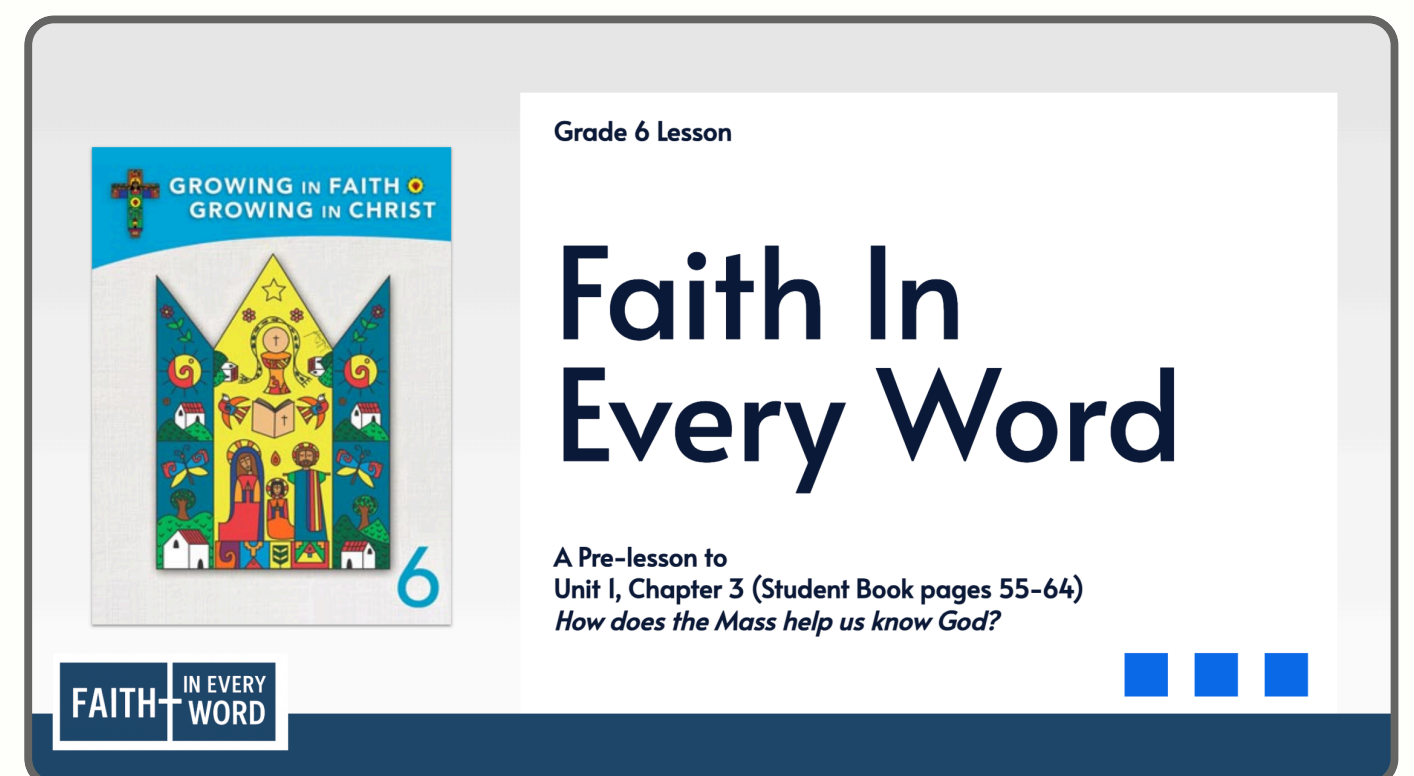
GROWING IN FAITH, GROWING IN CHRIST

Each lesson is based on the *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* resource. Educators will need access to this program, as the supplementary texts used in *Faith in Every Word* directly correspond to the lessons of focus. Short excerpts from these texts are highlighted to draw attention to specific morphemes, allowing students to see how meaning is built within a Catholic context.



SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

Each lesson includes a slide presentation that introduces and reviews the affixes of focus. In the primary grades, affixes are animated through GIFs to show how words are formed step by step, while in the junior and intermediate grades, a wider range of affixes is explored without GIFs. Each presentation incorporates reading excerpts, often in the Minds On portion of the lesson, where students and teachers work together to highlight curriculum-linked affixes that vary by grade level.



Suffixes

Suffixes are word parts or morphemes that attach **after** a base/root word. A suffix changes the meaning of the root or base word.

-ion/-tion	the act of or result of something e.g., invent + ion = invention
-ment	the act of or result of something e.g., enjoy + ment = enjoyment
-ness	a state of being e.g., kind + ness = kindness
-ical	relating to or a characteristic of something e.g., comic + al = comical
-less	without something e.g., hope + less = hopeless
-ful	full of something e.g., cheer + full = cheerful

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LESSON ORGANIZATION continued...

ACTION AND APPLICATION

During the Action portion of each lesson, students apply their knowledge from shared reading while working with passages from *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ*. Each lesson also provides an independent application task where students practice using the morphemes explored in both the Minds On and Action sections, reinforcing their learning and supporting transfer to new contexts.

Grade 6 Morphology Consolidation

Learning Goal(s):

- Understand how prefixes and suffixes change base word meanings.
- Explore how affixes affect word meaning, focusing on various prefixes and suffixes.

Word Matrix:

- A word matrix is a graphical (or visual) way of showing families of word sums. We create a word sum when we show how words are built. For example, inter + cede + s = intercedes.
- Read the word matrix from left to right.
- Choose only one morpheme from a column at a time.
- Always include the root word (*joy* in this word matrix). You do not have to use all of the columns to build each word.

inter	cede "to give up or yield"	s
pre		ed
re		ing
		ent
		sion

Write a word sum for four words.

Choose two of the words that you came up with and use these words in a sentence.

VIDEO EXTENSION & REFLECTION

To deepen understanding, every lesson includes an extension activity in the form of a video featuring Rev. Andrew Taylor. In these videos, he provides a morphological breakdown of a faith-based word related to the lesson's theme. While the focus word may not always connect directly to the affixes studied, it enriches student comprehension of both language and Catholic teaching, opening space for reflection on faith and meaning.

Extension

Reconciliation

Extension

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GROWING SUCCESS AND ASSESSMENT

Each lesson in *Faith in Every Word* integrates opportunities for assessment for, as, and of learning. These practices help educators gather evidence of student progress, guide instruction, and encourage students to reflect on their own growth as word learners and people of faith. The assessment opportunities outlined here may vary from grade to grade, and we have also included a few additional opportunities that may not be noted in each lesson plan. As always, educators are encouraged to use their professional judgment to adapt these practices to their unique classroom context.

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

- **Elicit Prior Knowledge** - Begin with a short activity to gauge students' familiarity with prefixes, suffixes, and base words (e.g., brainstorming known affixes, sorting words, or discussing familiar religious terms).
- **Ongoing Observation** - As students encounter words in faith-based texts, pause to check understanding of how word parts shift meaning. Use questioning and quick conferences to uncover misconceptions.
- **Guided Practice Evidence** - Collect student contributions (e.g., word lists, annotations, oral responses) during shared reading or morphology activities to inform next steps in teaching.

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ASSESSMENT AS LEARNING

- **Word Journals or Affix Banks** - Students document new words and morphemes, tracking how meaning is built. They monitor growth by revisiting and expanding these records over time.
- **Peer Conversations** - Students explain word meanings to a partner or small group, reflecting on how affixes changed meaning. Peer feedback supports self-monitoring.
- **Word Matrix Task (Formative)** - Students experiment with combining base words, prefixes, and suffixes within a Word Matrix. This provides an opportunity for them to self-assess: Am I creating real words? Do the meanings connect to the text or faith theme?

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

- **Word Creation / Analysis Task** - Using a Word Matrix/creation task, students generate new words, accurately break them down into morphemes, and apply selected words in context (e.g., sentences, short reflections).
- **Integrated Faith & Literacy Response** - Students demonstrate how morphology supports comprehension and faith connections through a culminating piece that incorporates words studied.
- **Extension Video Reflection** - After viewing a short morphological breakdown of key faith words (e.g., Bethlehem, Trinity), students reflect on how word study connects to larger themes of community, love, or discipleship.

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Deliverables Access Links

[Grade 1 ONTARIO Lesson Plan](#) (3 pages with linked documents)

[Grade 2 ONTARIO Lesson Plan](#) (3 pages with linked documents)

[Grade 3 ONTARIO Lesson Plan](#) (3 pages with linked documents)

[Grade 4 ONTARIO Lesson Plan](#) (3 pages with linked documents)

[Grade 5 ONTARIO Lesson Plan](#) (3 pages with linked documents)

[Grade 6 ONTARIO Lesson Plan](#) (3 pages with linked documents)

[Grade 7 ONTARIO Lesson Plan](#) (3 pages with linked documents)

[Grade 8 ONTARIO Lesson Plan](#) (3 pages with linked documents)

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CONCLUSION

Research shows that morphology instruction strengthens literacy by supporting decoding, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and spelling (Berninger et al., 2010). As students encounter increasingly complex vocabulary, an understanding of morphemes equips them to interpret and apply meaning with confidence (Scibetta Hegland, 2021).

Faith in Every Word grounds this research in the Catholic tradition. Words such as sacrament, communion, intercede, and reconciliation are central to our faith and rich with morphological meaning. Learning how these words are formed deepens literacy while also opening students to the truths they carry.

Much of our language and faith vocabulary finds its roots in Latin, a reminder that words are a bridge between our literary and spiritual heritage. By exploring morphemes, students see how language and faith are intertwined, both offering pathways to deeper understanding.

This resource offers teachers practical support: opportunities for shared reading, built-in differentiation for diverse learners, and lessons that enrich, not replace, Language instruction. In this way, students learn that every word, carefully studied, can open the door to both stronger literacy and a richer faith.

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