

First Grade

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Curriculum Outcomes/Religious Education

At this level, Catholic School and Religious Education children will be presented with the following beliefs and practices and at the conclusion of this level demonstrate a knowledge of these beliefs and an understanding of how these practices are integral to living out the Catholic faith in a manner appropriate for their age and ability.

The following curriculum outcomes are categorized within the fundamental tasks of catechesis: “helping to know, to celebrate and to contemplate the mystery of Christ.” (GDC 85-87; NDC pp. 59-63)

Key Concepts

- 1 | Knowledge of the Faith
- 2 | Liturgical Education
- 3 | Moral Formation
- 4 | Teaching to Pray
- 5 | Education for Community Life
- 6 | Missionary Initiation

Key Concepts

1 Knowledge of the Faith.

■ Catechesis gives believers a knowledge of the content of God's self-revelation which is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition and helps them know and understand the mysteries of the faith we proclaim in the Creed. (cf. NDC p.60)

Children being catechized in First Grade will:

- a. understand that God is the creator of all things (CCC 279, 325)
- b. realize that God created all people in his image and likeness Genesis 1:27, (CCC 355, 356, 357)
- c. know that God loves all people of every race, age, culture and ability (CCC 225, 360, 361, 1934)
- d. realize that life is a gift from God (CCC 2319)
- e. recognize that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, The Blessed Trinity, and that we demonstrate this knowledge regularly by making the Sign of the Cross (CCC 253-255)
- f. recognize that God the Father is the first person of the Blessed Trinity, He is the first origin of everything and provides goodness and loving care for all his children (CCC 238-242)
- g. recognize that God the Son is the second person of the Blessed Trinity; he became a man and his name is Jesus (CCC 240-242)
- h. recognize that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity who will be with the disciples, to teach them and guide them in the Truth (CCC 243-246 NDC p. 203)
- i. know that God promises heaven to those who love and obey him; in heaven we will see God and be happy with him forever (CCC 1023-1024, 1821, 2796)
- j. understand that through the Bible and the Church we learn about God and how God wants us to live (CCC 137,168)
- k. understand that the Bible is the Word of God and has two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament (CCC 81,105, 120, 123, 124)
- l. become familiar with some stories from the Old Testament e.g.,
 - Creation story, Genesis 1:1-27
 - Noah's Ark, Genesis 6:5-8:22
 - Abraham and Sarah's special friendship with God, Genesis 15
 - Joseph and his brothers, Genesis 37:1-36
 - David, tending sheep in Bethlehem, anointed King, 1 Samuel 16: 1-13 (CCC 121,123, 129)
- m. know that in the Gospels we find the life of Jesus (CCC 124,125)
- n. know that Jesus, as the second person of the Blessed Trinity, is the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, and is our Lord, brother and teacher (CCC 240, 422, 427, 458, 2765, 2782)
- o. understand that Mary is the Mother of Jesus and also our Mother (CCC 411, 437, 490)

Review

Before you begin

Many of the concepts from the Kindergarten are repeated in Grade One as some children may attend private or public school kindergartens.

Children being
catechized in
First Grade will:

- p. know that Joseph is the foster father of Jesus (CCC 437)
- q. become familiar with the New Testament stories about:
 - Annunciation, Luke 1:26-33
 - Birth of Jesus, Angels, Shepherds, Luke 2: 1-20
 - Visit of the Magi, Matthew 2: 1-12
 - Flight into Egypt, Matthew 2: 13-15 (CCC 423, 437)
- r. recognize that babies are a gift from God (CCC 2319)
- s. know that Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the Holy Family and loved and cared for each other (CCC 532-533)
- t. realize that God has blessed us with a family (parents, siblings) to love and care for each other (CCC 533)
- u. know that Jesus was:
 - presented to God in the temple by Mary and Joseph
 - at twelve years of age, lost for three days in the temple
 - grew up in Nazareth, cared for by Mary and Joseph,
 - left Nazareth as an adult to teach the people about the Kingdom of God (CCC 529, 531, 533-534)
- v. know, appropriate to their age, some of the teachings of Jesus, parables and miracles (CCC 546, 2607, 1503-1505) e.g.,
Teachings of Jesus:
 - Follow me and I will make you fishers of men, Matthew 4:18-20
 - Do to others as you would have them do to you, Luke 6:31
 - You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...You shall love your neighbor as yourself, Mark 12: 30-31
 - I am the Good Shepherd, John 10:11, 14*Parables of the importance of the kingdom:*
 - The treasure in a field, the pearl of great price, Matthew 13:44-46;*Miracles of Jesus:*
 - Jesus feeds the 5,000, Matthew 14:15-21;
 - Healing of the two blind men, Matthew 9:27-31
- w. understand that during Mass, which is the celebration of the Eucharist, we remember what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper and that shortly thereafter, he suffered and died for us on the cross (CCC 610-611, 616-617, 624-630, 1366)
- x. know that Jesus rose from the dead which the Church celebrates at Easter (and every Sunday) and that forty days later Jesus ascended into heaven (CCC 641-644, 659)
- y. know that through our Baptism we are made children of God, members of the Body of Christ and are brought into the Church; the Church teaches that “Reborn as sons of God, [the baptized] must profess ... the faith they have received from God.” (CCC 1270, 804, 1213, 1265-67, 1308)
- z. realize that Jesus founded the Church and that the Holy Spirit, who is always with us, guides the Church (CCC 688, 763-768)

2 Liturgical Education

Christ is present in the sacraments. The believer comes to know Christ intimately in the liturgical celebrations of the Church. Christ's saving action in the Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the sacraments. This is especially true in regard to the Eucharist. Catholics experience the closest communion with Jesus on earth that is possible when they receive his living Body and his Precious Blood in Holy Communion. Catechesis should promote an active, conscious and genuine participation in the liturgy of the Church and an understanding of the doctrinal truths of the Creed which are its foundation. (cf. NDC p. 60)

Children being catechized in First Grade will:

- a. understand that the Church teaches us about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus throughout the year which we call the liturgical year (CCC 1163-1171)
- b. understand the Advent and Christmas seasons (CCC 524, 525, 526)
- c. understand the Lenten and Easter seasons (CCC 540, 1438, 571)
- d. know that saints, especially the Virgin Mary, lived holy lives and show us how to live (CCC 2030)
- e. identify and celebrate some feasts of Mary, the Mother of God, as they occur in the liturgical year, e.g.,
 - Nativity of Mary, September 8
 - Immaculate Conception, December 8
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, December 12
 - Mary, Mother of God, January 1
 - Annunciation of the Lord, March 25 (CCC 1172, 1195, 2177)
- f. identify and celebrate some feasts of saints e.g.,
 - St. Therese of the Child Jesus, October 1
 - Guardian Angels, October 2
 - All Saints, November 1
 - St. Martin de Porres, November 3
 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, January 4
 - St. John Neumann, January 5
 - St. Francis De Sales, patron/Diocese of Wilmington, January 24
 - St. Katharine Drexel, March 3
 - St. Joseph, March 19
 - Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, July 14 (CCC 1173, 1195, 2030)
- g. realize the importance of the church i.e., a place where Catholics gather to pray and celebrate the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, by visits to the church to become familiar with e.g., altar, tabernacle, sacred vessels, vestments (liturgical colors), baptismal font; tabernacle, statues (CCC 1181-1186)

- h. explain the difference between a cross and a crucifix, and learn the value and beauty of sacred images (CCC 2132, 2141)
- i. understand, in general, that the Mass is a special prayer of the Church and that everyone should participate reverently by e.g., responses, standing, sitting, kneeling, listening, singing, signing at the gospel, saying the Our Father, joining in the sign of peace (CCC 1273, 1323, 1419)
- j. realize that Jesus gives himself to us under the appearance of bread and wine at the Mass (reflect with the children that they are preparing to receive Jesus in the Eucharist next year) (CCC 1331,1357-58)

3 Moral Formation

■ Catechesis must transmit the content of Christ’s moral teachings and conform the believer to Christ through personal transformation and conversion. It should encourage the faithful to give witness to Christ and His Church’s teaching in everyday life. As Catholics, we are called to carry the values of the Gospel and the teaching of our Church into the public square. (cf. NDC p. 61)

Children being catechized in First Grade will:

- a. understand that our life is a gift from God and that we must care for our life and the lives of others (CCC 1926, 2258, 2288)
- b. understand that God calls us to be kind and loving to our friends and neighbors (CCC 1697,1970)
- c. understand the love, respect and obedience children should show in the family (CCC 2214, 2216, 2217)
- d. realize that we should respect and care for God’s gift of creation (CCC 299, 2402)
- e. recognize that God gave us laws or rules to live by and Jesus came on earth to teach how to live and to obey God’s law (CCC 1950-1953)
- f. identify that sin is an offense against God (CCC 1850) and the concept of sin as disobedience to God (CCC 397-399)
- g. know that God always loves us and forgives us our sins if we ask and are sorry; God gave us a special sacrament, penance, to give us his forgiveness (CCC 270, 277, 430-431, 1431-1432, 1439)
- h. realize that we must forgive others (family, friends, etc.) when they express sorrow for having hurt us and we must say we are sorry and ask forgiveness when we have hurt another person Matthew 18:22 (CCC 1657,2227, 2840, 2845)

4 Teaching to Pray

■ Conversion to Christ and communion with him lead the faithful to a disposition of prayer and reflection. Jesus' entire life, death and Resurrection were an offering to the Father. The Our Father is the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray and the model of all Christian prayer. The handing on of the Our Father is a summary of the whole Gospel and a true act of catechesis. The most effective catechesis is permeated by a climate of prayer. (cf. NDC p. 61)

Children being catechized in First Grade will:

- a. understand, in an age appropriate way, that prayer is a gift from God, a talking to and with God and that the life of prayer is remembering God's presence with us (CCC 2559, 2564, 2565)
- b. understand, in an age appropriate way, that in our prayer we offer God: thanksgiving (gratitude), adoration (praise), supplication (petition) and contrition (repentance) (CCC 2098-2099, 2644-2649, 2626-2628)
- c. explain that in the Bible we find words to use in prayer e.g.,
 - The Our Father, Luke 11:2-4, Matthew 6:9-13
 - The Hail Mary, Luke 1:26-33
 - The Lord is My Shepherd, Psalm 23:1-4
 - Shout joyfully to God, all you on earth; sing his glorious name; give him glorious praise, Psalm 66:1-2 (CCC 2697, 2757, 2759)
- c. understand that daily prayer e.g., before and after meals, before going to sleep, before a trip in the car, is a way of life for Catholics (CCC 2659-2660)
- d. know that prayer may be said at anytime or place but special places for prayer are the home, Church, and in classes where we learn about God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (CCC 2743, 2659-2660; NDC p. 203)
- e. learn/review the following prayers, the Church teaches: "The memorization of basic prayers offers an essential support to the life of prayer, but it is important to help learners savor their meaning." (CCC 2688) To accomplish this, begin slowly with phrases from the prayers, with the intention of the children learning these prayers in their entirety:
 - Sign of the Cross
 - Our Father
 - Hail Mary
 - Glory Be
 - Blessing before and after meals
 - Morning prayer/prayer at bedtime

NB: See Appendices of this Curriculum and of the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

5 Education for Community Life

■ Jesus said to his disciples: “Love one another as I have loved you.” (John 13:34) This command guides the disciple’s life in the Catholic Church and global community. Catechesis should encourage: a) an apprenticeship in Catholic living b) a spirit of simplicity and humility c) special concern for the poor d) care for the alienated and the immigrant stranger e) fraternal correction and love f) common prayer and g) mutual forgiveness. Members of the Body of Christ receive special graces and gifts to help build up the Church. Ecumenical charity and sensitivity as well as a zeal for unity among Christians are emphasized. (cf. NDC p. 61-62)

Children being catechized in First Grade will:

- a. know that Jesus teaches us to love God and our neighbor, John 13:34-35, Luke 10:25-28
- b. understand that common prayer, Matthew 18:19, inclusive of family prayer, is a way of life for Christians (CCC 2685, 2694, 2696)
- c. recognize that when other children are doing something wrong we should tell them to stop or tell parents/teachers, Matthew 18:12,15 (CCC 1829)
- d. understand that Jesus founded the Catholic Church that we might all be one and at the same time to understand that not everyone is a Catholic and that some of our relatives, playmates and neighbors may worship in other Christian religions (denominations) that believe in Jesus Christ (CCC 816, 818)
- e. know that, with others in our family, parish, school, we practice the charity of the Lord in good works and love for all (CCC 2179)
- f. recognize that God has entrusted to all human beings responsibility for the world and all its creatures (CCC 373)
- g. realize that we can make choices and that our choices effect the lives of others (CCC 1800)
- h. know that we must forgive others as God forgives us (CCC 1425)

6 Missionary Initiation

■ Catechesis seeks to form disciples of Christ who bear witness to their Catholic faith in society. A missionary spirit of evangelization is cultivated and nourished by the teaching and attitudes of Jesus Christ. Every means should be used to encourage vocations to the Priesthood and religious life and to awaken special missionary vocations. Catechesis recognizes that other religious traditions reflect the “seeds of the Word” that can allow for both “inter-religious dialogue” and “evangelization.” (cf. GDC 86)

Children being catechized in First Grade will:

- a. realize that Jesus asks us to share the Good News of the Gospel with our family, and friends and others we meet, Matthew 28:19-20
- b. understand that many people in the parish assist the priest at the Mass as altar servers, lectors, cantors, extraordinary ministers of communion, ushers, and someday they too, may assist at Mass (CCC 897, 903)
- c. realize the unique role of the Priest at Mass (CCC 1070, 1348)
- d. know that the Church asks for prayer from all Christians for vocations to the priesthood and religious life to continue the work of the Church, Luke 10:1-2 (CCC 873, 1587, 1595, 1986)
- e. recognize that there are leaders that care for the Church: the Pope, Bishops, priests, and learn the name of the Pope, the Bishop of our Diocese, and the name of the parish priest(s) (CCC 880, 1549)
- f. realize that wherever they are, school, home, church, playground, stores, homes of friends, they are followers of Jesus and their behavior should show that they are Christians (CCC 2013)

Scripture References for Catechists/ Parents and for Stories the Children Can Tell

Genesis 1:1-27	...Creation story
Genesis 6:5-8:22	...Noah's Ark
Genesis Chapter 15	...covenant with Abraham
1 Samuel 16:1-13	...David and Samuel
Psalms 23:1-4	...The Lord is my shepherd
Psalms 66:1-2	...Shout joyfully to God
Luke 1:26-33	...Annunciation, Hail Mary
Luke 2:1-20	...Jesus' Birth, Shepherds' visit
Matthew 2:1-12	...Visit of the Magi
Luke 2:22-38	...Presentation in the Temple
Luke 2:41-52	...Child Jesus in the Temple
Luke 6:31	...Do to others
Luke 11:2-4	...The Our Father Matthew 6:9-13
Mark 12:30-31	...You shall love the Lord...
John 10:11, 14	...Good Shepherd
Matthew 13:44-46	...Treasure in field, Pearl of great price
Matthew 14:15-21	...Jesus feeds 5,000
Matthew 9:27-31	...Healing of two blind men
Matthew 26:26-29	...Last Supper
Matthew 27:45-66	...Jesus' Death and Burial
Matthew 28:1-10	...The Resurrection
Luke 24: 36-43	... Appearance of Jesus to the Disciples
Luke 24:50-53	...Ascension