

Fourth 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

Before you begin Review

Review Key
Concepts from
Previous Grade
Level

- in the Holy Trinity, there are three Persons Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- God is the creator of all things
- the existence of angels
- Jesus is the Son of God, both human and divine
- Jesus taught us how to live through his life, death and resurrection
- the Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic
- the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles and Mary at Pentecost and continues to guide the Church
- the Sacraments of Initiation make us members of the Church
- the Eucharist is the central prayer of the Church
- Catholics are obliged to attend and to participate in the Mass each Sunday
- through the sacrament of Reconciliation our sins are forgiven
- the Bible is God's word and has two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament
- in the Gospels of the New Testament we find the life of Jesus, the Son of God
- the liturgical year guides our worship throughout the year
- our Catholic faith is strengthened when it is given to others

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 Fourth Grade will:

- a. understand that Revelation is God making Himself and his loving plan of salvation known to us; it is called Divine Revelation because it comes to us from God (CCC 50-53)
- b. recognize that God's Revelation was gradual and took centuries to unfold beginning with the creation of the world and ending with the death of the last Apostle (CCC 69, 96)
- c. know that the way in which God made himself and his plan of salvation known was by words and deeds passed on to us through Sacred Scripture and Tradition (teachings and truths which the Church passes on to us) (CCC 74-75, 80)
- d. understand that God continued to abide with mankind even after the Fall of man; He did this by establishing covenants between Himself and mankind: first with Noah, then with Abraham and then most significantly with Moses through whom Divine Law was given to his chosen people in the form of the Ten Commandments, as the focal point of that Covenant (CCC 54-60)
- e. identify the Ten Commandments that guide our life and learn their meaning. (CCC 2056-2057, pages 496-497 in CCC list the commandments as they appear in the Old Testament and give a traditional catechetical formula)
- f. recognize that God continued to reveal Himself through the prophets who made known the coming of a Messiah who would bring the salvation for mankind (CCC 62-64)
- g. recognize that the fullness of God's revelation came in the person of Jesus Christ, God's Son; all that God wished to reveal was made known in Christ (CCC 65)
- h. identify the two great Commandments given to us by Jesus, Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 22: 34-40, Luke 10:25-28 (CCC 2055, 2196)
- i. know that Jesus' new law of love tells us we must love God above all things and love others of diverse races, ages, cultures and abilities (CCC 1931-1938)
- j. identify the Works of Mercy that show us how to care for all people and to have a special love for the poor and disadvantaged;

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Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- convert sinners
- instruct the ignorant
- advise the doubtful
- comfort the sorrowful
- bear wrongs patiently
- forgive injuries
- pray for the living and the dead

Corporal Works of Mercy:

- feed the hungry
- shelter the homeless
- clothe the naked
- visit the sick
- visit the imprisoned
- give drink to the thirsty
- bury the dead (CCC 2447-2448)

- k. identify the Beatitudes given to us by Jesus as Christian ways of living Matthew 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-22 (CCC 1716-1717)
- l. know that the four Gospels occupy a central place in the Scriptures because Jesus Christ is their center (CCC 139)
- m. know that the whole of Christ's life continually teaches us: his birth, hidden years, public life, the mysteries of his death, resurrection, ascension , his prayer, his love of people (CCC see 521 especially the quote of St. John Eudes, and also 561)
- n. realize that Jesus is our model of holiness: "take my yoke upon you, and learn from me" Matthew 11:29 "I am the way, the truth and the life, John 14:6 (CCC 459, 460)
- o. know that Mary is truly "Mother of God" and devotion to Mary is part of Catholic tradition (CCC 509, 971, 2679, 2682)
- p. learn that the Communion of Saints (cf. Apostles' Creed), those disciples on earth, those in heaven and the dead being purified are all part of the Church and united to Christ (CCC 954-959)
- q. know that those who live faithful lives die in God's grace and friendship and are born into eternity and see God face to face in Heaven (CCC 1023)
- r. know that Hell means being separated from God forever (CCC 1033, 1035-1037)
- s. know that in Purgatory one is purified and made holy for life with God in Heaven (CCC 1030-1031)

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 Fourth Grade will:

- a. know that the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus is called the Eucharist (CCC 1328)
- b. understand that at the Last Supper Jesus gave us himself in the Eucharist (CCC 1339)
- c. know that at the consecration of the Eucharistic prayer the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus (CCC 1352-1353)
- d. recognize that the Mass is a gathering of the faithful to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1346, 1348-1355)
- e. know that the Church professes that the Eucharist is:
 - thanksgiving and praise to the Father;
 - the sacrificial memorial of Christ and his Body;
 - the presence of Christ by the power of his Word and of his Spirit (CCC 1357-1358)
- f. know that the Church teaches that the bread and wine, by the power of the Holy Spirit and by the words of the priest become the Body and Blood of Christ who is really and mysteriously made present (CCC 1357-1358)
- g. demonstrate a knowledge of the parts of the Mass: introductory rites, Liturgy of the Word, Offertory, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Concluding Rite (CCC 1345-1355)
- h. recognize that the Mass has a central place in the life of the Church and that weekly attendance and participation at Mass is an obligation for all Catholics (CCC 1324-1326, 1389, 2182)
- i. explain, in general, the liturgical year (CCC 1163-1171)
- j. describe the meaning of the season of Advent and the season of Christmas (CCC 524-526)
- k. describe the meaning of the season of Lent, the Triduum and the Easter season (CCC 540, 571, 1329, 1412, 1438)
- l. know that in Ordinary Time we learn the life of Jesus and how we may follow him (CCC 1100-1101)

Note: for an explanation of Ordinary time go to web sites: blestarewe.com or webbelieveweb.com

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- m. reflect, throughout this year, on the Sunday readings and the prayers of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, also, tour the church to gain an understanding of vestments (liturgical colors), Book of the Gospels, sacred vessels, Sacramentary, etc. (CCC 1346-1347)
- n. participate at Mass by e.g., attention to singing, responses, readings, signing at the Gospel, attention to the Eucharistic prayer, saying the Our Father, joining in the sign of peace (CCC 2179)
- o. demonstrate how to receive Holy Communion reverently during Mass (CCC 1355)
- p. participate in celebrations that honor the religious and cultural heritage of the parish such as customs for saints days, special blessings for holidays and holydays (CCC 1204)
- q. identify some feasts of Mary, the Mother of God, as they occur in the liturgical year e.g.,
 - Nativity of Mary, September 8
 - Our Lady of the Rosary, October 7
 - Immaculate Conception, December 8
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, December 12
 - Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, January 1
 - Annunciation of the Lord, March 25
 - Assumption, August 15 (CCC 490-493, 964-966)
- r. identify feasts of some saints using especially the liturgical year, e.g.,
 - Guardian Angels, October 2
 - St. Francis of Assisi, October 4
 - All Saints, November 1
 - St. Martin De Porres, November 3
 - St. Nicholas, December 6
 - St. Francis De Sales, Patron/Diocese of Wilmington, January 24
 - St. Katharine Drexel, March 3
 - St. Joseph, March 19
 - Saints Philip and James, Apostles, May 3
 - St. Dominic Savio, May 6
 - Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, June 29
 - St. Maria Goretti, July 6
 - Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, July 14, (CCC 1195, 2030)
- s. know that God, through the Church, calls us to regular reception of the sacrament of penance (CCC 1457-1458)
- t. demonstrate the ability to approach the sacrament of penance and seek forgiveness (CCC 1484)
- u. know that the Church celebrates various forms of reconciliation through its prayer and liturgy (CCC 1434-1439, 1443-1444, 1480-1484)

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 luminous teaching of our Church into the public square. (cf. NDC p. 61)

Children being catechized in Fourth Grade will:

- a. explain that life begins at conception and follows a life cycle from conception and birth until natural death (CCC 1007, 2270)
- b. explain that human life is sacred because it is a gift from God and all should have what they need for quality of life (CCC1926)
- c. know that God created humans with bodies and souls (CCC 362, 364)
- d. recognize that human life begins with the joining of cells from the mother and from the father (CCC 2364, 2367)
- e. know that feelings are neither good nor bad, but the actions brought forth from the feelings are morally good or bad (CCC 1767, 1773)
- f. understand that the practice of virtues help us to pursue what is good and choose to do good in concrete actions (CCC 1803)
- g. know that all human virtues are grouped around four “cardinal” virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance; these virtues help us to practice good deeds with God’s help (CCC 1805-1810)
- h. understand that chastity and modesty flow from temperance (CCC 2337, 2521-2522)
- i. know that modesty, a virtue, shows respect for our own bodies and the bodies of others (CCC 2524)
- j. realize that in the sacrament of marriage, and with God’s help, husbands and wives are faithful to one another (CCC 1601)
- k. describe the love, respect and obedience children should show in the family and recognize the family as a place to learn forgiveness (CCC 1657, 2214-2220, 2227)
- l. know that sin and evil are present in our world as a result of Original Sin and its consequences (CCC 385-387, 396-410, 1739, 1849-1850)
- m. understand that conscience is a voice within our hearts where God has inscribed his law calling us to love and to choose to do what is good and avoid evil (CCC 1776)
- n. identify that through mortal sin: charity is destroyed by a grave violation of God’s law; we lose sanctifying grace; and we are no longer in full union with the Church but remain children of God and members of the Church; the Sacrament of Penance is for all sinful members of the Church especially those who have fallen into grave sin (CCC 1855-1859, 1861, 1446)

Note: these precepts may be found in the Appendices of this Curriculum, *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* and in textbooks. This is an initial introduction to these precepts (CCC 2041-2043)

- o. realize that venial sin is a less serious offense but one that weakens our relationship with self, God and others (CCC 1855,1862-1863)
- p. understand the difference between situations of accident or carelessness and deliberate moral choice, direct or indirect (CCC 387, 1860)
- q. know that the Church has five laws or precepts that help us in our Christian life

4 Teaching to Pray

■ Conversion to Christ and communion with him lead the faithful to his 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 Fourth Grade will:

- a. know that prayer is a gift from God, a relationship with God and that the life of prayer is the habit of being in God's presence and in communion with him (CCC 2559, 2564-2565)
- b. know, in an age appropriate manner, that there are different forms of prayer:
 - adoration (blessing) (CCC 2628)
 - supplication (petition, intercession, contrition) (CCC 2629, 2631, 2634)
 - thanksgiving (gratitude) (CCC 2637)
 - praise (CCC 2639)
- c. know that the Our Father has a special place in the prayers of the Church and especially in the Eucharistic liturgy, and be able to locate this prayer in the New Testament, Luke 11:2-4; Matthew 6:9-13 (CCC 2773- 2776)
- d. realize that there are other prayers in the Bible, e.g.,
 - The Lord is My Shepherd, Psalm 23:1-6
 - Shout joyfully to God, Psalm 66
 - The Canticle of Mary, Luke 1:46-55
 - Prayer of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32
- e. realize that when we pray we may use the prayers of the Church, prayers from the Bible, prayers that the saints wrote or we may pray in our own words using the words that are in our heart, Galatians 4:6 (CCC 2656-2658; NDC p.111-113)
- f. know that Mary, in her prayer, is an example to us as she offers her whole being in faith especially in her fiat (her acceptance of

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- God's design for salvation through the message of the angel at the Annunciation) and her Magnificat (CCC 2617-2622)
- g. recognize 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, his son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit (CCC 2743, 2659-2660; NDC p.203)
 - h. 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)
 - Sign of the Cross
 - Our Father
 - Hail Mary
 - Glory Be
 - Act of Contrition
 - Apostles Creed
 - Rosary
 - Stations of the Cross
 - Morning Prayer/ Prayers at bedtime
 - Brief Acts of Faith, Hope, Love

Note: See Appendices of this Curriculum and *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 pp. 61-62)

- a. understand that Jesus teaches us to love God and love our neighbor, John 13:34-35
- b. understand that Jesus encouraged community prayer, Matthew 18:19; thus we gather as a community to celebrate the Eucharist and pray together at other times (CCC 1102, 1166, 2179, 2745)
- c. describe how with others in our family, parish, school we practice the charity of the Lord in good works and love for all especially the poor (CCC 2179)
- d. realize that Jesus calls us to mutual forgiveness, Matthew 18:22, and that forgiveness begins in the family (CCC 1657, 2227)

Children being catechized in Fourth Grade will:

- e. know that when other children are doing something wrong or harmful to themselves or others we should tell them to stop and tell parents/teachers (CCC 1829)
- f. recognize that sacraments of service, i.e., Holy Orders and Matrimony, are vocations of love in which God calls us to be faithful and life-giving (CCC 1534)
- g. 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, friends and neighbors may worship in other Christian religions (denominations) that believe in Jesus Christ (CCC 816, 818)
- h. realize that the Church asks all her members to pray for Christian unity and work to foster this unity which Christ wills for the Church (CCC 820)
- i. understand that God has entrusted to human beings responsibility for the world and all its creatures (CCC 373)

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 Fourth Grade will:

Note: the many letters Paul wrote to the various towns and cities attest to his missionary work, also cite some examples of missionary saints in the Americas e.g., St. John Neumann, St. Katharine Drexel

- a. realize that our love for the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ strengthens us to share our Catholic faith with others; powerful examples are great Catholic missionary saints e.g., St. Patrick, St. Francis Xavier (CCC 849, 851)
- b. know something of the missionary work and zeal of St. Peter and St. Paul (cf. Acts of the Apostles *Peter*: Acts 3:11-36 and 10:34-49; Acts of the Apostles *Paul*: Conversion 9:1-30 and selected excerpts from Chapters 16,17,18)
- c. realize that every Catholic is called to have a missionary spirit that radiates the power of Christ within us; our own Catholic faith is strengthened when it is given to others (*Redemptoris Missio* 2, John Paul II, 1990)
- d. know that, by reason of their baptism, the laity have a special place in the Church and are called to spread the Good News by their words and actions wherever they may be (CCC 897)
- e. realize that we grow in holiness and spread our faith through our dedicated everyday work which includes study; and we understand the dignity of human work made holy by the life of Jesus as a carpenter and teacher [Bishop Saltarelli’s 2001 Pastoral Letter *Holiness in the World of Work* and *Lumen Gentium* 41]

Children being catechized in Fourth Grade will:

- f. understand that the Church is in need of vocations to the priesthood, and to different forms of consecration to God in religious and apostolic life and we need to pray for vocations (CCC 1583)
- g. realize that many people in the parish assist the priest at the celebration of the Eucharist as altar servers, lectors, cantors, extraordinary ministers of communion, ushers, and these children may assist at the Eucharist as servers and in the future in other roles (CCC 897, 903)
- h. recognize the awareness of the need for peace, defined as “the tranquility of order... the work of justice and the effect of charity” (CCC 2304)
- i. understand, in an age appropriate way, world hunger, world peace, human rights, sacredness of life, and the need to care for the environment (CCC 1716, 1807)
- j. understand that we call Jesus, Prince of Peace and Jesus’ words “Blessed are the Peacemakers”, Matthew 5:9, call us to foster peace and pray for peace in the world and in the various situations of our lives (CCC 2305)
- k. understand that those in the Jewish faith were the first to hear God’s word and are our older brothers and sisters in faith with whom we share the Old Testament (CCC 63)

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

Genesis Chapter 12	...God chose Abraham
Exodus Chapters 19 and 20	...The Ten Commandments given to Moses
Luke 10: 25-28; Matthew 37-40	...Jesus’ Great Commandment
John 13: 34-35	...Love One Another
Luke 15: 3-7	...The Lost Sheep
Luke 15: 8-10	...The Lost Coin
Luke 15: 11-32	...Prodigal Son and Loving Father
John 20: 19-23	...The Gift of Penance
Luke 6: 20-22; Matthew 5:3-12	...The Beatitudes
Luke 11: 2-4; Matthew 6:9-13	...The Our Father