

# *Sixth 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

- the existence of angels
- Jesus is the Son of God both human and divine
- the life of Jesus in the New Testament
- the two great commandments of love of God and neighbor given to us by Jesus
- the ten commandments
- the Beatitudes given to us by Jesus
- spiritual and corporal works of mercy
- precepts of the Church
- conscience is a guiding voice within our hearts that helps us to make moral choices in accord with the Truth of Christ
- mortal sin is a total break in our relationship with God, Church and one another
- venial sin is a less serious offense but one that weakens our relationship with self, God and one another
- we seek God's forgiveness especially by reception of the sacrament of reconciliation
- the sacraments of initiation make us members of the Church
- the Eucharist is central to the life of the Church
- knowledge of the parts of the Mass
- Catholics participate in Mass each Sunday
- the liturgical year guides our worship throughout the year
- the seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony
- Mary, Mother of God, our model of faith, is especially honored by the Church
- sacramentals as a blessing, action, or object that remind us of Christ's presence and love

# 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 Sixth Grade will:

- a. know that the Scriptures are the divinely inspired Word of God (CCC 105-107)
- b. understand that the teaching office of the Church, the Magisterium — that is the Pope and Bishops — has the task of authoritatively interpreting the Word of God contained in Sacred Scripture and transmitted by Sacred Tradition; the Magisterium is the servant of the Word of God (CCC 85-86, Dei Verbum 10)
- c. describe that the canon of Sacred Scripture includes 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament (CCC 120)
- d. explain that the Old Testament tells us that God created everything out of nothing and all God created is good; man, on the other hand can only create from what God has given (CCC 296-299)
- e. realize that the Scriptures reveal that angels, whose existence is a truth of faith, are spiritual beings who honor and praise God always and sometimes act as God's messengers, e.g., Luke 1:26-38, the angel Gabriel announces the coming birth of John the Baptist and Jesus and Luke 2:8-14, angels announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds (see Scripture References at the end of Sixth Grade for additional references of angels as messengers (CCC 328, 329, 331, 332, 333)
- f. understand that in the Book of Genesis, the inspired account says our first parents sinned and brought disharmony, suffering and death into the world - these were the result of the breach of our relationship with God; this first sin was the Original Sin of man and this original sin affects all human beings born into the world; by this original sin "man preferred himself to God" and tried to "be like God" but without God, Genesis 3:1-24 (CCC 398-402)
- g. explain that the Book of Genesis tells of the call of Abraham by God to leave "his country, his relatives and his father's house." Abram's was obedient to God's call and God made him "Abraham" meaning "the father of a multitude of nations", Genesis 12:1-9 (CCC 59)

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Sixth Grade will:

- h. explain that God made a covenant with Abraham i.e., a solemn agreement between God and mankind involving mutual commitments or guarantees, Genesis 15:18-21; 17:1-11 (CCC 60, 72, 992, 2571)
- i. explain how God's people grew from Abraham's son Isaac to Jacob to Joseph and onward to the presence of the chosen people in Egypt, Genesis Chapters 21-46; Exodus 1:1-8
- j. know that God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, this exodus event was from slavery to freedom (CCC 62, 130, 1093, 1363)
- k. describe that during the journey to the promised land, God gave (revealed) to Moses the Ten Commandment and Moses gave these laws to his people; these Commandments are the cornerstone of the Old Covenant. "but it is in the New Covenant in Jesus Christ that their full meaning will be revealed" (CCC 62, 2056-2057, 2060-2061)
- l. explain that Joshua succeeded Moses and led the people into the promised land, cf. Numbers 14:6, 30; Book of Joshua
- m. describe that the Israelites tried to serve the Lord in their new land and God gave them judges (Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Samuel) and eventually gave them kings (notably Saul, David, Solomon) to guide and rule them, cf. Book of Judges, Book of Kings in Old Testament
- n. understand that God sent prophets such as Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel and others to call his chosen people to a faithful way of living especially when they strayed, cf. Old Testament (CCC 64, 72, 218)
- o. explain that through the Old Testament we come to know Jesus as one pre-figured and foretold (CCC 126, 652, 1964) and that He fulfilled the "messianic hope of Israel, in his threefold office of priest, prophet and king" (CCC 436-440)
- p. recognize that Jesus is one Divine person, with two natures: he is the Divine Son of God (one person) and is fully Divine and fully human (two natures) (CCC 481)
- q. realize that in the writings of the New Testament the central focus is Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son: his acts, teachings, Passion and glorification, and the Catholic Church's beginnings under the Spirit's guidance (CCC 124)
- r. realize that the mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church, which is the Body of Christ; the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, continues Christ's saving work, especially through the Sacraments (CCC 737-738)
- s. examine that through Baptism, our lives in Christ are a participation in the death and Resurrection of Christ; this should be reflected in the way each Christian lives his/her life (CCC 1002)
- t. explain that the stages of Christ's life and his mysteries continually teaches us: his birth, hidden years, public life, the mysteries

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- of his death, resurrection, ascension, his prayer, and his love of people (CCC see 521, especially the quote of St. John Eudes, and also 561)
- u. understand that those who live faithful lives die in God's grace and friendship and are born into the Kingdom of Heaven and see God, as He is, face to face (CCC 1023)
  - v. understand that the Church affirms the existence of Hell, to which those who die in the state of mortal sin descend; the chief punishment of Hell is being separated from God forever (CCC 1033, 1035-1037)
  - w. understand 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 Sixth Grade will:

- a. explain the structure, practices, traditions and celebrations of the liturgical year (CCC 1163-1171)
- b. know the structure, timing and meaning of the seasons of Advent and Christmas to our faith and worship (CCC 524-534)
- c. know the structure, timing, and meaning of the seasons of Lent, the Triduum and Easter season to our faith and worship (CCC 538-542, 571-572, 1329, 1412, 1438)
- d. know that in Ordinary Time we learn the life of Jesus and how we may follow him (CCC 1100-1101)
- e. realize, on a deeper level, the value of the sacrament of Penance and encourage its regular reception (CCC 1484, 1651)
- f. understand that the Eucharist is the memorial of Jesus' sacrifice, his passion and death, and by celebrating the Eucharist we obey his command on the eve of his passion "Do this in remembrance of me" (CCC 1356)
- g. explain that the Catholic Church professes that the Eucharist is:
  - thanksgiving and praise to the Father
  - the sacrificial memorial of Christ and his Body
  - the re-presentation of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection

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Note: for an explanation of Ordinary time go to web sites: [blestarewe.com](http://blestarewe.com) or [webelieveweb.com](http://webelieveweb.com)

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Sixth Grade will:

- the presence of Christ by the power of his word and of his Spirit (CCC1357-1358)
- h. know that the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ is called the Eucharist (CCC 1328)
- i. understand that at the Last Supper, Jesus gave us himself in the Eucharist (CCC 1339)
- j. know that at the consecration of the Eucharistic prayer the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus (CCC 1352-1353)
- k. realize that the Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist, is a gathering of the faithful to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1346, 1348-1355)
- l. explain that by celebrating the Eucharist we obey Jesus' command on the eve of his passion "Do this in remembrance of me" (CCC 1356)
- m. recall that our 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)
- n. participate at Mass by e.g., attention to singing, responses, readings, signing at the gospel, listening prayerfully to the Eucharistic prayer, saying the Our Father, joining in the kiss of peace (CCC 2179, 2182)
- o. demonstrate the ability to receive Holy Communion reverently during Mass (CCC 1355)
- p. 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, sacred vessels, Book of the Gospels, Sacramentary, etc. (CCC 1346-1347)
- q. understand, through the liturgical year (i.e., November 1, All Saints Day, November 2, All Souls Day), that the Communion of Saints includes the disciples on earth, those in Heaven and those in Purgatory (CCC 958-959)
- r. participate in celebrations that honor the religious and cultural heritage of the parish members such as customs for saints days and special blessings/celebrations for holy days (CCC 1204)
- s. know the meaning of 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
  - Visitation (after Pentecost)
  - Assumption, August 15

Children being catechized in Sixth Grade will:

- Queenship of Mary, August 22 (CCC 490-493, 717, 966)
- t. identify the lives of the apostles and some saints using especially the liturgical year e.g.,
  - Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels, September 29
  - St. Francis of Assisi, October 4
  - St. Martin De Porres, November 3
  - St. Andrew, Apostle, November 30
  - St. John Neumann, January 5
  - St. Francis De Sales, Patron of our Diocese, January 24
  - St. Patrick, March 17
  - St. Joseph, March 19
  - Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, June 29
  - St. Maria Goretti, July 6
  - Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, July 14
  - St. John Mary Vianney, August 4
  - St. Lawrence, August 10
  - St. Maximillian Mary Kolbe, August 14
  - St. Rose of Lima, August 30 (CCC 1195, 2030)

## 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 Sixth Grade will:

- a. know the Ten Commandments, given to Moses by God for his chosen people, and their meaning in our life today (CCC 2056-2057))
- b. recall Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount (cf. Matthew Chapters 5,6,7)
- c. realize that human life is sacred, from its very beginning to its natural end, because it is a gift from God and all should have what they need to live (CCC 1926)
- d. understand that self respect and respect of others is a response to God's gift of creation and the dignity of the human person (CCC 357, 2331)
- e. recognize that the Church teaches the right use of God's gift of sexuality (CCC 2348)
- f. recall that the sacrament of marriage has at its core faithful married love open to new life and that sexual intercourse is a special act of love intended for husbands and wives (CCC 2335)

Children being catechized in Sixth Grade will:

- g. reflect 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)
- h. know that the Church assists in forming our conscience in moral matters through its catechesis and preaching, the basis for this catechesis is the Ten Commandments which sets out the principles of moral life valid for all (CCC 2033)
- i. realize that in “the liturgy and the celebration of the sacraments, prayer and teaching are conjoined with the grace of Christ to enlighten and nourish” our actions as Christians (CCC 2031)
- j. recognize that the choices we make for good or evil have consequences for our life here and hereafter (CCC 1705-1709)
- k. describe that all human virtues are grouped around four “cardinal” virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance; these virtues help us to practice good deeds with God’s help (CCC 2337)
- l. understand that God desires all persons to live in peace and harmony, helping one another (CCC 1911-1912)
- m. explain 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)

## 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 Sixth Grade will:

- a) recall that prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God; 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 that “the living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer and that in prayer the faithful God’s initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response” (CCC 2567)
- c. know that Jesus is our model for prayer; He “invites us to become his disciples and follow him-through his prayer he draws us to pray” (CCC 520, 2601-2604, 2616, 2620)
- d. reflect 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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Sixth Grade will:

- God's design for salvation through the message of the angel at the Annunciation) and her Magnificat (CCC 2617-2622)
- e. describe, in general, the different types of prayer
    - adoration (blessing) (CCC 2628)
    - supplication (petition, intercession, contrition) (CCC 2629, 2631, 2634)
    - thanksgiving (gratitude) (CCC 2637)
    - praise (CCC 2639)
  - f. realize that God always calls people to prayer, beginning with our father Abraham, prayer is revealed in the Old Testament (CCC 2569)
  - g. recall that God called Moses from the burning bush "to be his messenger, an associate in his compassion, his work of salvation." in this regard, Moses shows us an example of intercessory prayer, for he does not pray for himself but for God's people; Moses converses with God on the mountain and then comes down and repeats the words of God to his people for their guidance; this is an example of intercession (CCC 2575-2577)
  - h. know that King David of Israel, author of the 150 Psalms of the Old Testament, was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and is the first prophet of Jewish and Christian prayer (CCC 2579-2580)
  - i. recognize that for the Jewish people, in the time before Christ and in the years immediately after Christ, the Temple was the place where the Jews were educated in prayer: pilgrimages; feasts; sacrifices; the prophets encouraged that education and called the people to continued conversion (CCC 2581)
  - j. know the special place that the Our Father has in the prayer of the Church e.g., the Eucharistic Liturgy, other sacraments and locate this prayer in the New Testament, Luke 11:2-4; Matthew 6:9-13; (CCC 2773-2776; see also *The Rites of the Catholic Church, Volumes I, II*, to find the Our Father in e.g., the Rites of Baptism and Confirmation)
  - k. understand that when we pray we may use the prayers of the Church, prayers from the Bible, prayers that the saints wrote or we may prayer in our own words using the words that are in our heart, Galatians 4: 6 ( CCC 2656-2658; NDC p.111-113)
  - l. 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

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Note: See Appendices of this Curriculum and of *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* for a listing of these prayers.

- Apostles Creed
- Nicene Creed
- Acts of Faith, Hope and Love
- Grace before and after meals
- Morning and Evening prayer
- Rosary
- Stations of the Cross

## 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)

Children being catechized in Sixth Grade will:

- a. recall that Jesus asks us to love God and love our neighbor (John 13:34-35)
- b. know that when we see wrongdoing, we are called to seek to right the wrong (young people are assisted by adults in this matter) (CCC 1435, 1829)
- c. understand that the family home is a place of human enrichment in which one learns the joy of work, fraternal love, generous forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one’s life (CCC 1657, 2227)
- d. realize that the Church of Christ subsists in the Catholic Church other Christian denominations share elements of faith with Catholicism, among them: Baptism: devotion to the word of God; the practice of charity (CCC 818-819)
- e. recall that we pray with our Church for Christian unity; Christ bestowed unity on his Church from the beginning, thus the desire to recover the unity of all Christians is a gift of Christ and a call of the Holy Spirit (CCC 820-822)
- f. recognize that the life of prayer is necessary for the individual Catholics and the Church (CCC 2697-2699)
- g. explain the manner in which charity is practiced in our parish, our family, our school (CCC 952)
- h. conclude that the practice of charity benefits the whole Christian community especially the poor (CCC 953)
- i. know that self respect and respect of others of all races, creeds, colors and national origin is a response to God’s gift of creation (CCC 2331, 357)

Children being catechized in Sixth Grade will:

- j. realize that many people come to our country from other countries to find a better life; we are called to assist them in recognition of their human dignity, Colossians 3:12-13, Galatians 3:28 (CCC 1911, 2241)
- k. recall that God has entrusted to all human beings responsibility for the earth and all its creatures, in the role of stewards of God (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 Sixth Grade will:

- 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 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)
- c. 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)
- d. realize that “Through the ordained ministry, especially that of bishops and priests, the presence of Christ as head of the Church is made visible in the midst of the community of believers” (CCC 1549)
- e. reflect that the Holy Spirit, in order to foster the Kingdom of God on earth, calls some to the vocation of priesthood, and to different forms of consecration to God in religious and apostolic life (CCC 1583, 1974)
- f. describe that in the ordained priesthood a man is called to a ministry committed to the service of God’s people; priests serve as co-workers with the bishop in serving the Catholic community (CCC 1551, 1562, 1578)
- g. understand that priests act in the person of Christ and in the name of the whole Church and that priesthood reaches its high point in the celebration of the Eucharist (Mass) (CCC 1552-1553, 1566)

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- h. understand that others, men and women, may be called to a vocation in religious life to serve the People of God as Brothers or Sisters ( GDC 85 -Missionary initiation)
- i. realize 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 (CCC 897-900)
- j. know that there is a common vocation of all Christ's disciples, a vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing the world; this vocation is grounded in the sacraments of Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (CCC 1533)
- k. understand that wherever they may be (at church, at home, at the mall, at play, at sports' events, at school,) a child's Catholic faith is to inform his/her attitude and behavior ( GDC 86; CCC 898-900)
- l. understand an awareness of the need for peace "the tranquility of order... the work of justice and the effect of charity" (CCC 2304).
- m. know that peace is the work of justice and love, and calls us to foster world peace, human rights, sacredness of life, care for the environment and the alleviation of world hunger (CCC 1716, 1807)
- n. indicate a knowledge that earthly peace is the image and fruit of the peace of Christ, who is our peace, as he reconciled God and man, Jesus' words: "Blessed are the Peacemakers" Matthew 5:9, call all to foster peace in the various situations of their lives (CCC 2305)
- o. recall that Christianity has roots in Judaism and that both religions share the belief that the Old Testament is the word of God (CCC 123, 1096)

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

Genesis Chapter 1 and 2:1-3	...Creation Story (Care of the Earth)
Exodus 3:1-6	...Angels as God's messengers
Judges 13:1-5	
Luke 1:26-38	
Luke 2: 8-14	
Genesis 3:1-4	...Fall of our first parents
Genesis 12:1-20	...Call of Abraham
Genesis 15:18-21; 17:1-11	...God's Covenant with Abraham
Genesis Chapters 21-46	...Growth of God's People Isaac to Jacob to Joseph, to Chosen People in Egypt
Exodus Chapters 1-12	...God's call to Moses, Moses and Pharaoh, preparation for the journey, Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt
Exodus 19: 20-25; 20:1-17	...The Commandments
Deuteronomy 5:6-21	
Book of Joshua	...Joshua succeeds Moses
Book of Judges	...Judges rule Israel
Book of Kings	...Kings rule Israel
Select passages from Books of Prophets	...Prophets guide God's people
Isaiah 7:10-14	...Jesus foretold, prefigured in the Old Testament
Micah 5:1	
Isaiah 9:5-6	
Psalm 22:19	
Isaiah 40:10-11	
Psalm 22:7-9	