



*The Faith That Marks God's People*

# **Guidelines for Catechesis**

Pre-Kindergarten through Grade Six

Archdiocese of New York  
Revised - 2016

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May 15, 2016  
Feast of Pentecost  
Year of Mercy

Dear friends in the Lord:

With prayer and confidence in your dedication to the mission of catechesis – to bring everyone closer to Jesus Christ – I promulgate these *Guidelines for Catechesis, Pre-Kindergarten Through Grade Six* in the Catholic school and catechetical programs of the Archdiocese of New York.

This is the third edition of the *Guidelines*. Since they were first promulgated in 1987, the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office and the Office of the Superintendent of Schools found it necessary to revise and update them, particularly in light of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, published in 1995. This update incorporates added scriptural references, protocols on catechesis issued by the bishops of the United States, and the new translation of the *Roman Missal*.

Allow me to thank the leaders of the Guidelines Revision Committee for their efforts: Sr. Joan Curtin, CND, director of the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office and chairperson; Ms. Nancy Doran; Ms. Linda Fitzsimons; Ms. Margaret Hoblin; Sr. Teresita Morse, RJM; Mr. Philip Gorrasi; Ms. Lisette Robustelli; and Ms. Paige Sanchez.

Just a few months after his election, Pope Francis spoke to catechists attending the International Congress on Catechesis in Rome, and thanked them for their commitment. He said:

*Catechesis is a pillar of faith education and we need good catechists! Thank you for your service to the Church and in the Church. Even if at times it may be difficult and require a great deal of work, and although the results are not always what we hope for, teaching the faith is something beautiful! It is perhaps the best legacy we can pass on: the faith! To educate in the faith, to make it grow. To help children, young people and adults to know and love the Lord more and more is one of the most exciting aspects of education. It builds up the Church!*

Permit me to add my own heartfelt thanks. I count on you, your knowledge of and faithfulness to Church teaching, and your pedagogical skills to assist me in sharing the faith that we were given at baptism and enriched by years of living and learning. Hopefully, you know that I could not carry out this sacred duty without you.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim. Carol. Dolan." with a cross symbol at the beginning.

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York



## ***The Faith That Marks God's People***

**The Faith That Marks God's People** is developed according to the following format in grades one through six:

1. Each grade level is introduced by a statement of the year's doctrinal theme.
2. The pedagogical objective of the year follows the theme statement.
3. The **Guidelines** are to be read across the page, following the delineated bands.

The basic teachings of the faith are contained in the first two columns: "Core Content" and "Christian Living."

The "Core Content" column presents the faith concepts; the "Christian Living" column explains how these concepts are to be lived out by Catholics. The issues of morality, including respect for life and concern for justice and peace, form the substance of this column.

The "Sacred Scripture" column includes several passages in the Old or New Testament where the core content is imaged or taught.

The "Prayer and Worship" column suggests prayer and liturgical experiences for the child.

4. Throughout the Guidelines, from grades one through six, there is a developmental presentation of the major concepts.
5. On the final page of each grade level, there is a listing of vocabulary, prayers, and liturgical symbols and liturgical gestures to be taught. This page also includes the portion of the Creed that is to be taught or reviewed, and prayers to be encouraged.
6. After each entry in the **Guidelines**, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1997, is cited in support of the concept expressed. These citations are intended to deepen the catechist/teacher's understanding, on an adult level, of the content being taught.

The **Guidelines** are addressed to the catechist/teacher, not to the students. Nonetheless, throughout the **Guidelines**, the language has been kept as simple and straightforward as possible without sacrificing theological and doctrinal accuracy. It is hoped that the language used to present each concept will help the catechist/teacher to teach the concept according to the capacity of the student.

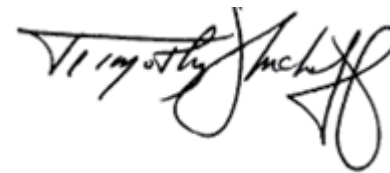
These **Guidelines** are not to be considered a substitute for the textbook. It is recommended that each parish select a single textbook series found to be in conformity with the US. Bishop's Protocol, for use in grades one through six for the school and parish programs, and that these **Guidelines** be used in conjunction with that textbook series. The **Guidelines** have been designed to assist the catechist/teacher in the use of the textbook by providing the essential content to be taught at each grade level.

To implement these **Guidelines** effectively, the catechist/teacher must be committed to give time and talent not only to catechizing others, but also to growing personally in faith and understanding. For this reason, an extensive Archdiocesan **Catechist Formation Program** in all counties of the Archdiocese is offered both online and on site to ensure ongoing theological, spiritual and pedagogical formation of all catechists/teachers.

Through this endeavor, it is hoped that the whole Church of New York will continue to grow in the faith that marks God's people.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Joan Curtin, C.N.D.".

Sr. Joan Curtin, C.N.D.  
Director, Catechetical Office

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy J. McNiff".

Dr. Timothy J. McNiff, Ed. D  
Superintendent of Schools

# Catechesis Prior to Grade One

## (3 to 6 year-olds)

### Introduction

The home is the first school of prayer and the seedbed of faith. (2685) Parish support for the family as the “domestic church” (2204) includes the work of religious educators who help parents to fulfill their role of “first heralds of the faith” (1656) to their children.

Specialists in early childhood development observe not only that young children can know and experience God, but that their experience bears a particular character, and is marked by great joy. Children from three to six years of age possess a profound capacity for contemplating the greatest truths of faith, and of experiencing a relationship with God that is loving, joyful, grateful and trusting.

By as early as the age of three, most children are ready to take part in a pre-school catechetical program. In such a program the role of the catechist is different from, yet complements, the unique role of parents.

Guided by a realistic assessment of the resources of the parish, the training of the catechists, and the merits of programs and methods that are in conformity with the ‘United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ *Protocol* for teaching materials, the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education, or the School Principal as appropriate, must choose that method of program which will best serve the needs in each particular parish situation.

Sofia Cavalletti is the pioneer of the early childhood religious education method known as *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*. Her work is inspired by the insights and educational method of Maria Montessori. She calls early childhood “a privileged age for accepting the Kerygma” and demonstrates that a suitable early introduction to the good news of God’s loving initiative will ground all later developments in a child’s religious and moral life.

In the New York Archdiocese, *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* is the preferred Catechetical program for this age group. It is based on deep insight into the needs and capacities of the young child and is effective with children from all cultures, learning abilities and socio-economic backgrounds. The parable of the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18) is central to this catechesis because young children are in the sensitive period for protection and the protective love of the Good Shepherd is a subject of inexhaustible interest to them.

The effective use of *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* depends upon the hands-on training developed by the National Association of the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*, and available through the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office. No parish Religious Education program may use this method unless its catechists have received the required training and certification.

Readers should keep in mind that effective use of this method depends upon hands-on training, which will be provided by the Archdiocese in cooperation with the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

# The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

## Underlying Principles

God and the child have a relationship that the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* seeks to serve with reverence and respect.

The catechist is a servant of a message that is not her or his own, and together with the child must humbly listen to God's word.

The catechist must observe the child carefully, as the inner dynamism of the child's need, will direct the catechesis.

The child is capable of perceiving the greatest realities of faith, and must never be talked down to.

The child must be given the opportunity to discover and appropriate the truth for her or himself.

Prayer, contemplation, and silence are natural components of the child's religious life, and must be honored.

The content of the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* is inseparable from the method of the Catechesis. The effective use of both method and content relies upon the preparation and training of the catechist.

## Christ as the Starting Point

Jesus, the Christ, is always the starting point and the center of *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*. Jesus, seen through the stories and parables of the New Testament, provides the closest link between the child and the whole mystery of God and salvation. "At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth..." (426) Although starting with Christ follows neither the chronological order of the salvation history approach nor the order of logical progression which dictates that one must know God before one can recognize God's Son, it does correspond to the needs, spirituality and experience of the child.

It is a valid theological starting point as well, since the Christian gains a privileged access to the Old Testament through the person of Christ, and not apart from him.

## Wonder and Prayer

The child has a natural capacity for wonder and contemplation. Wonder is an essential element in our falling in love with God. It forms the foundation for our spiritual life. The human capacity for wonder is without limits but for the young child it goes beyond "capacity" to "need". It is important that this need be nurtured. A particular characteristic of the 3 to 6 year old child is a great capacity for wonder. The young child learning about the world wants to take a closer look, "to linger". This close observation leads to a wonder and a contemplation which brings the child in touch with the sacred. In *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*, the child is given sufficient time to stop and dwell on the mysteries presented so that wonder will become a fundamental attitude of spirit.



Adults must take care not to stifle the capacity of the child for wonder, either by overstimulating or understimulating the child. Too many images, offered too rapidly, can cause the child to withdraw as a protection from such a wearying display. Understimulation can also deprive the child of wonder.

Prayer is the response of the child to the encounter with the Word, and arises naturally. Prayer is the means by which the child integrates the experience of the Word into the child's personal life. Memorized prayers are no substitute for the child's spontaneous prayer in response to God's presence and activity.

The child's prayer at this stage of life has a particular character: it is almost exclusively praise and thanksgiving, rarely, if ever, petition. This preference should be respected.

## **The Environment**

*The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* takes place in a designated space called an "atrium". The atrium should be a place of safety and openness arranged to foster the child's independence in learning and encourage the activities appropriate to the child's stage of development. The objects and furniture in the atrium should be adapted in size and weight to the child's abilities.

In the atrium, the Bible is displayed in a place of honor. A special area is also set aside for the Good Shepherd parable. The area for prayer is taken care of by the children themselves and they prepare it according to the seasons of the liturgical year.

Other possible areas might be devoted to Baptism, Eucharist, the parables of the kingdom, the life of Christ, and the geography of Israel. In each area, the appropriate materials should be easily available so that the children can work with them independently.

## **The Use of Scripture**

The scriptures proclaimed to the children are always taken from adult versions of the Bible, and are read slowly and with respect.

Added solemnity is given to the reading of the sacred text by the presence of a lighted candle during the reading.

The catechist may begin by telling the story of the scripture passage in his/her own words, but then it is important to proclaim and listen to the word from the text of Sacred Scripture itself.

Certain New Testament stories and parables are particularly appropriate for young children and are read in their entirety while Old Testament texts are used more sparingly. Memorization of scripture verses is avoided, because breaking the scripture into these smaller units tends to diminish one's grasp of the whole parable or story.

Booklets with the scripture readings are made available to the children who can read, so that they can revisit the texts, either individually or in groups, as they work with the materials relating to them.

## The Use of Materials

Simple, good quality materials, such as figures of the Good Shepherd, the sheep, and the sheepfold, are an essential aid to the child in meditating upon the scripture. They are designed with the needs of the children in mind, not those of the adult. Once the children have been shown how to use the materials, they are given the time and opportunity to work with them independently and at their own pace.

## Content

The *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* is rich in content. The content is directed by the choices of the children, but there are some texts and themes that are always explored. Among them are the following, which would be presented in accordance with the liturgical year over a three-year period:

### The Good Shepherd:

- The parable of the Good Shepherd
- The parable of the found sheep
- The psalm of the Good Shepherd
- The eucharistic presence of the Good Shepherd

### The parables of the Kingdom:

- The mustard seed
- The pearl of great price
- The hidden treasure
- The yeast/heaven

### Advent prophecies:

- The "Light" and the "Child" (Isaiah)
- The "Virgin" and "Bethlehem"
- The "Star"

### Events in the life of Jesus:

- The Annunciation
- The Visitation
- The birth of Jesus and adoration of the shepherds
- The birth of Jesus and adoration of the Magi
- The Last Supper
- The Resurrection

### The Land of Jesus:

- The world and the land of Jesus
- Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem
- Places and features of the land of Israel
- Places within Jerusalem

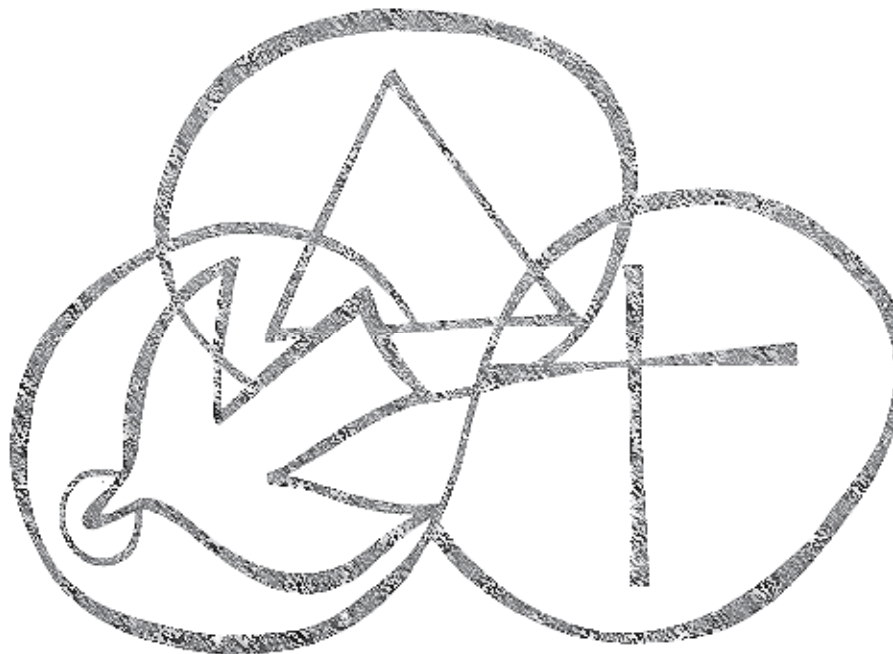
### Baptism:

- Light
- Word
- Water
- Oil
- White garment

### The Eucharist ("sacrament of the gift"):

- Preparation of cruets
- Mingling of water and wine
- The lavabo
- The gesture of the invocation of the Spirit
- The gesture of the offering
- The gesture of the sign of peace

# GRADE ONE



## THEME:

*God is our Father who loves us,  
Jesus is the Son of God who tells us about our Father.  
The Holy Spirit helps us to be holy.*

## OBJECTIVE:

To develop an awareness of God the Creator, who gives us life and grace and promises us eternal life through Jesus.

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>God is the Creator who made all things: angels, human persons, the whole world. 290, 326-27, 315, 338</p> <p>God is all loving. 218-21, 278, 301, 733 God is all holy. 208-9, 2809, 2812 God can do everything. 268-71, 303 God is everywhere. 300-01, 2794 God knows everything. 216, 283 God has always been and always will be. 34, 213</p>	<p>Through prayer and worship we respond with love and gratitude to God. 347, 1083, 2096, 2567, 2569</p> <p>Created in God's image, each person has dignity and value. It is our responsibility to respect life and to care for ourselves, others and all that God has created (stewardship). We are to be respectful of the life, good name, property and possessions of others. 355-58, 1701, 2158, 2258 2319, 2401, 2415, 2477</p>	<p>Creation Genesis 1: 1- 27</p> <p>Guardian Angels Matthew 18:10</p> <p>Attributes of God Lev 11:45 Ps 139:1-18 Ps 102: 26-27 Wisdom 11:23 1 John 4:7-8 Rev 1:8</p>	<p>Have the children learn the first section of the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth." 166-67, 170, 198</p>
<p>We are children of God. God is our Father who made us, loves us, cares for us, and who wants us to be happy with him, on this earth and in heaven. 1, 305, 1024, 1718, 1721, 2782</p> <p>Through the Sacraments Jesus shares God's love and life with us. 1131</p> <p>Through Baptism we become members of the Church, God's family, and receive grace, a sharing in God's life. 751, 1266,-67, 1271, 1279, 1997</p> <p>We are Catholic Christians. 837</p>	<p>We are to be truthful. We do not lie, destroy property, or steal. 2453-54, 2464, 2468, 2470</p> <p>We are called to be members of God's family, to be saints. Saints are people who live God's way. 823, 828, 946, 961, 1695, 1709, 1717, 2013</p>	<p>Trust in Providence Matthew 6:25-34</p> <p>The Grace of Baptism: A New Birth 1 Peter 1 :3-5</p>	<p>Bring the children to church and show them the place for Baptism, the altar area (sanctuary), and the place where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. 1180-86, 1383</p> <p>Have the children learn the sign of the cross. 232, 1234-35, 2157</p> <p>Have the children bless themselves with holy water as a reminder of their baptism. 1668</p> <p>Have the children genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. 1378</p>

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
Jesus, the Son of God, became human like us and loves us. 422-23, 444-45, 478		The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:7-14	Explain that Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas day. 524-525, 1095, 1163, 1168, 1171
Mary is the Mother of Jesus. 495	We look to Mary as a very special woman and our Mother. 963, 967-69, 2679	The Annunciation Luke 1:26-45	Have the children learn the Hail Mary. 435, 2676-77  Encourage devotion to Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother. 971, 1172, 2682  Show the children the rosary. Explain that we use the rosary to pray and meditate with Mary about the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus.  May and October are special months to honor Mary.
Jesus shows us how to live. 459, 520-21	We are to show love and obedience to our parents and those who take care of us, as Jesus did to his parents. 531-33, 2214-17  We are to be like Jesus and to care for others who are in need. We are especially invited by Jesus to be sensitive to the suffering of the poor, to pray for them and to help them. 544, 2443-46, 2448  We grow in virtue by loving God and doing good for others. 1833	The Obedience of Jesus Luke 2:41-52  Jesus' love for us Mark 10:13-16 Luke 4:40 Matthew 14:13-21	Teach the children to pray for other people. 2634-36
Jesus listened to and talked with his Father. 2599  Jesus teaches us how to listen to and talk with God our Father. 2601, 2607  Prayer is listening to and talking with God. 2653, 2659-60	We talk each day with God our Father: - to express our love (adoration), - to ask for forgiveness, and help in our needs (petition), - to pray for the needs of others (intercession), - to thank God (thanksgiving), - to praise God. 2628-29, 2631, 2635, 2638-39	Prayer of Jesus: the Our Father Matthew 6:9-13  God's care for us Ps 46:11	Have the children learn the Our Father. 2759, 2765-66  Foster daily prayer, especially in the morning, in the evening and at mealtimes. 2685, 2698

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
At Mass, we listen to God's Word and pray together as God's family. 104	Because the celebration of the Mass is the best way to worship God, the Catholic community must come together on Sundays and Holy Days to worship God at Mass. 1167, 1193, 1389, 2042-43, 2177, 2643  The parish is the center of our worship and of our life in the Christian community. We are to know the name of our parish. 2179	Communal Life Acts 2:42	Encourage the children to participate in Sunday Mass at their parish.
Jesus suffered and died for us and rose from the dead. 571, 609, 638, 1067 He brings us God's forgiveness. 615, 623	To live in peace it is necessary at times to say we are sorry, to forgive and to make up with others. We are all called to be peacemakers in our world. 1434-35, 1716, 1825-26, 2046 2304, 2839, 2843-45	The Risen Jesus seen by the Apostles John 21:1-14	Explain that Lent is a season of the liturgical year. It is a time of preparation for the great feast of Easter. 540, 1095, 1168-69, 1438
The Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus to make us holy. 729-30  The Holy Spirit helps us to pray. 741, 2652		The Holy Spirit Galatians 4:6	Have the children review the Sign of the Cross and learn, The Glory Be. (Doxology). 232, 2157, 2639  Encourage the children to pray in their own words (spontaneous prayer). 2590, 2648, 2652
Sacred Scripture is the Word of God. 103-4, 135	In Sacred Scripture we learn about God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 104, 131, 133	Sacred Scripture: the Word of God Psalm 119:105	Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. Encourage the children to do the same at home. 103-4, 107, 133, 2205, 2691

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

The First Statement of the Apostles' Creed:

"I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth." 198

## WORDS TO BE TAUGHT

Advent 524, 1095

Amen 1061-62

Catholic 830, 837

Christmas 525

Church 752

Creator 290

Easter 1169

Guardian Angel 336

Lent 1095, 540

Liturgical Year 1168-71

Mass 1332, 1407

Parish 2179

Sacrament 1131

Sacrament of Baptism 1213

Sacred Scripture 104,138

Saint 828, 1717

Virtue 1833

## LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT

Altar 1182, 1383

Baptismal Font 1185

Genuflection 1378

Holy Water Font 1185

Kneeling

Lectern (Ambo) 1184

Sanctuary

Sanctuary Lamp (changed from Tabernacle Lamp)

Sign of the Cross 2157

Tabernacle 1183

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 133

Have the children bless themselves with holy water as a reminder of their baptism. 1668

Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199

Have the children genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. 1378

Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community. 2179, 2226

## PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT

Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157

Our Father 2759

Hail Mary 2676-77

The Glory Be (Doxology)

## PRAYERS TO BE ENCOURAGED

Morning and evening prayer 2659, 2685, 2698

Grace at Meals 2698, 2834

Spontaneous Prayer 2590, 2659-60

### \*DOXOLOGY

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## TO BE TAUGHT:

### The Apostles' Creed

GRADE ONE

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,

GRADE TWO

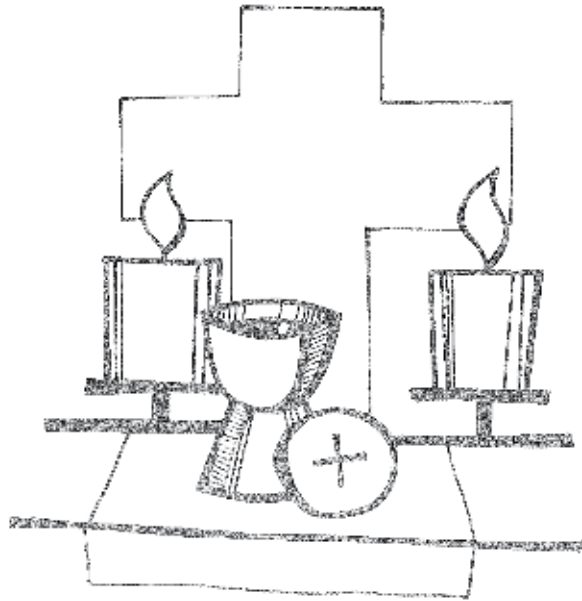
and in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

GRADE THREE

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen



# GRADE TWO



## THEME:

*Jesus nourishes us,  
and strengthens God's life, grace, within us.*

## OBJECTIVE:

To present Jesus as the model for Christian living, and to introduce the sacraments of Baptism, Penance and Eucharist.

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
God the Father gives us the gift of Jesus. 422, 443-45	We are in awe of God's wonderful gifts of human life and of grace, a sharing in God's own life. 343, 355, 1996-97, 2017, 2258, 2260	Jesus, gift of God John 3:16	
Jesus, the Son of God, who existed from all eternity, "was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary" (Incarnation). 359, 441-42, 454, 456, 461-63 470-76, 479, 483	We are to care for and respect the life of the unborn, persons with disabilities, the elderly and all people. 27, 1700, 1930, 1932, 2270, 2273, 2276	Jesus as Divine and Human (Incarnation) Mark 1:11	Continue to teach the Apostles' Creed: "and in Jesus Christ, his only Son ... from there he will come to judge the living and the dead." 194
Mary is the mother of Jesus and our mother. 485, 501, 509, 723, 724 726, 963, 968-70  Mary was always filled with a special grace from God. 721-22  Even before she was born, Mary was free from all sin. 508	Mary is the model for all Christians because she was always close to God and said "yes" " <i>fiat</i> " to God with faith and trust. 144, 273, 494, 506-7, 511, 967 973, 2617, 2030	Annunciation Luke 1:26-38 The Magnificat Luke 1:46-55	Review the Hail Mary. 435, 2676-77  Prepare the children for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8. 410-11, 490-92, 722
Joseph is the foster father of Jesus. 437, 496-97, 532	Joseph too is our model because he trusted God's ways and treated people justly. 828, 1717, 2030  During the Advent season, we prepare prayerfully to celebrate Christ's coming among us. 524	Joseph Matthew 2:13-14	Encourage devotion to St. Joseph. 533, 957, 1674-76  Pray with the children, using the Advent wreath.

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>Jesus came to save all. 430, 517, 543, 457, 589, 606-07</p> <p>Jesus is God. his name means “God saves.” 430</p>	<p>During the Christmas season we celebrate God’s gift of Jesus to us. We remember the stories of Jesus’ birth. We pray. We give gifts to those we love. We also help the needy, such as the poor, the homeless, the lonely. 525-26, 544, 563</p>	<p>Birth of Jesus (Nativity) Luke 2:1-20</p> <p>Visit of the Wise Men (Epiphany) Matthew 2:1-12</p>	<p>Explain Christmas, December 25, as the celebration of Jesus’ birth. 525-26, 1171, 2177</p> <p>Explain the meaning of the Christmas crèche.</p>
<p>Jesus was always obedient to God his Father, and he expects the same of us. When we are disobedient to God’s law, we sin. 532, 612, 1693, 1850 2600, 2603, 2606</p> <p>Jesus is our model of love and goodness. 520-21, 459, 1694 1698, 1709, 1953</p>	<p>To promote peace in society, in the Church, and in our families, God has willed that, after him, we should honor our parents and those to whom he has given authority for our good. This will promote peace in society, in the Church and in our families. 2199-2200, 2238, 2248, 2304</p> <p>One way to imitate Jesus’ love and goodness is to treat others fairly and justly. 459, 520, 1803, 1807, 2401</p>	<p>Hidden life with Mary and Joseph Luke 2:39-40</p> <p>Examples of his love and goodness Mark 6:53-56 Luke 7:11-15 John 21:4-12</p>	<p>Review the Our Father. 2759, 2765-66</p> <p>Explain the feast of the Holy Family 527, 529, 530, 534</p> <p>Encourage family prayer. 2204-05, 2225-26, 2685</p> <p>Explain the feast of the Sacred Heart which celebrates Jesus’ great love for each of us. 478</p>
<p>Jesus died for us on the cross (Crucifixion). On Easter Sunday he rose from the dead (Resurrection). 616-17, 638, 656</p> <p>Jesus returned to his Father in heaven (Ascension) and sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always (Pentecost). 659, 731</p>	<p>Jesus died and rose to save us from being separated from God forever (hell), and to enable us to live with God forever (heaven). 326, 613-14, 618, 622-23, 655, 658 1023, 1034-36, 1861, 2795</p>	<p>Death and Resurrection Choose appropriate passages from the four Gospels.</p>	<p>Introduce Holy Week, especially Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday. 1095, 1165, 1169</p>

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>Jesus is present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within each of us by the life of grace,</li> <li>- in the community of the Church, the Body of Christ, of which Christ is the head,</li> <li>- when we gather in his name to pray together,</li> <li>- in his Word (Sacred Scripture),</li> <li>- in all the sacraments and in a special and unique way in the sacrament of the Eucharist. 65, 102-03, 787-89, 1088 1092, 1104, 1348, 1373-74, 2011</li> </ul>		<p>The Presence of Jesus</p> <p>Matthew 18:20 John 6:35 John 14:23 Romans 12:4-5 1 Peter 1:23-25</p>	
<p>There are seven sacraments. The sacraments are signs – words and actions – we perceive through our senses. They show us Jesus’ love for us. They give us his grace. 1084, 1148, 1152</p> <p>Three of the sacraments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Baptism by which we are freed from sin, share in God’s life, grace and become members of God’s family, the Church. 1213, 1262, 1265-67, 1997, 1999</li> <li>- Penance and Reconciliation by which we receive and celebrate God’s forgiveness. In this sacrament we express sorrow for our sins, and are reconciled with the Church. 1422, 1440, 1442, 1446, 1451 1462, 1468-69, 1486, 1490</li> <li>- Eucharist by which we receive the gift of Jesus’ Body and Blood which he shares with us at Mass as he shared them with the apostles at the Last Supper. 1322-23, 1333, 1337, 1340, 1382</li> </ul>	<p>We need help to live the Christian life. One of the greatest helps is the sacraments. 1123, 1133, 1966, 2030</p> <p>When we fail to live the Christian life, we need to say we are sorry to God and to anyone we have hurt. 1440, 1458, 1459, 1847</p> <p>When we gather with other members of God’s family at Mass and receive Communion, we are strengthened to live this Christian life. 1388, 1392, 1394, 2182</p>	<p>God’s saving presence in Jesus Hebrews 7:25</p> <p>Baptism Matthew 28:19-20</p> <p>Penance Luke 15:4-7 John 20:22-23</p> <p>Eucharist Mark 14:22-24 John 6:51</p>	<p>Explain the Rite of Baptism 1234-45, 1255</p> <p>Baptism can be received only once. 1280</p> <p>Show the children the Easter candle. 1216, 1243, 1254</p> <p>Have the children learn the Act of Contrition. (Grade 2 – Page 6) 1451</p> <p>Encourage prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Review the practice of genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament as an expression of reverence for the Real Presence. 1330, 1374, 1378-80</p> <p>Explain that on Holy Thursday the Church celebrates Jesus’ gift of himself at the Last Supper. 610, 1096, 1339-40</p>

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>The Sacrament of Penance is a celebration which makes clear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- that God has given us free will to chose between what is good and what is evil, 1732, 1734, 1776-77, 1784, 1802</li> <li>- that God gives us the Spirit to empower us to make loving choices of what is good, 1433, 1811, 1830</li> <li>- that God continues to love us even when we sin, 1424, 1428, 1465</li> <li>- that God calls us always to be sorry for our sins and to accept his forgiveness. 1425, 1847-48</li> </ul>	<p>Since God has given us free will, we are responsible for the choices we make. Our choices affect our lives, our relationship with God and our relationship with others. 1696, 1730, 1734, 1738, 1868</p> <p>We are expected to treat ourselves and other persons with gentleness and caring, and not with violence. 1823, 1832, 1869, 1970, 2305-06</p> <p>True freedom means we choose to live God's way. Sin is a deliberate choice to act against the will of God, that is, against how God wants us to live. 1696, 1731, 1733, 1849-50</p>	<p>The Gift of Free Will Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 15:14-15</p> <p>The Gift of the Holy Spirit John 14:15-17a</p> <p>The Gift of God's Forgiveness Luke 7:36-50 Luke 15:11-24 1 John 4:10</p>	<p>Teach the Rite of Penance. 1447-49, 1451, 1455, 1459 1480, 1482</p> <p>Prepare the children for their first celebration of the Sacrament of Penance.* Have the children celebrate the Sacrament in a parish setting and with family participation whenever possible. 1140, 1438, 1482 2204-05, 2225-26</p> <p>Teach the children to examine their consciences in an age-appropriate manner.</p>
<p>The reception of Communion nourishes and strengthens our relationship with Christ begun in Baptism and continued throughout our lives. 1244, 1391-92</p> <p>At the Mass we gather together as God's family for: 1140-41, 1348, 1369-70</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Liturgy of the Word, when we listen to God's message to us so as to put it into practice in our lives, 1349</li> <li>- the Liturgy of the Eucharist, when we offer with the priest the gifts of bread and wine. Through the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the wheat bread and grape wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus (transubstantiation). In the Eucharist Jesus gives himself as the bread of life and the cup of salvation. 1346-47, 1350-55, 1376</li> </ul>	<p>We worship God on Sundays and holy days through the Eucharistic celebration. 1166-67, 1389, 2042-43, 2177, 2180-82, 2192</p> <p>In the Mass we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- praise and thank God,</li> <li>- remember what God has done for us in Christ,</li> <li>- grow in love, which cleanses and preserves us from sin,</li> <li>- ask for help for ourselves and others. 1349, 1354, 1359-66, 1393-95</li> </ul>	<p>Last Supper 1 Corinthians 11:23-26</p>	<p>Teach the general outline of the Mass, and the simple responses at Mass. 1346</p> <p>Prepare the children for their first reception of Holy Communion.* Have the children celebrate the Sacrament in a parish setting and with family participation whenever possible. 140,1385, 2204-05, 2220, 2225-26</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>* The planning of this celebration should be in accord with the norms of the Church, take into account parish policies, and involve both priests and catechists.</p> </div>

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Continue to teach the Apostles' Creed up to "...and the dead. (Grade 1 – Page 6)

## WORDS TO BE TAUGHT

Ascension 665	Heaven 1023	Repentance 1492
Blessed Sacrament 1330	Hell 1035	Resurrection 651-55
Crucifixion 623	Holy Day 2177	Rite of Penance 1480
Charity 1813, 1822	Holy Week 1169	Sacrament of the Eucharist 1211, 1322-23
Conscience 1713	Liturgy of the Word 1349	Sacrament of Penance 1420-22
Contrition 1451	Liturgy of the Eucharist 1350-55	Sacramental 1667-69
<i>Fiat</i> 973, 2617	Pentecost 731	
Grace 1997	Prayer 2590	

## LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT

Reconciliation Room 1185	Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 132
Confessional 1185	Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199
	Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community. 2179, 2226

## PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT

Act of Contrition recommended for use throughout the Archdiocese\*  
Simple responses at Mass.

## PRAYERS TO BE ENCOURAGED

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament 1380

## REVIEW PRAYERS OF THE PREVIOUS GRADES

Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157  
Our Father 2759  
Hail Mary 2676-77  
The Glory Be (Doxology, Grade 1 – Page 5)  
Morning and evening prayer 2659, 2685, 2698  
Grace at meals 2698, 2834  
Spontaneous prayer 2590, 2659-60

### \*ACT OF CONTRITION

My God,  
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong  
and failing to do good,  
I have sinned against you  
whom I should love above all things.  
I firmly intend, with your help,  
to do penance,  
to sin no more,  
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.  
Our Savior Jesus Christ  
suffered and died for us.  
In His name, my God, have mercy.

(taken from the Rite of Penance)

# GRADE THREE



## THEME:

*Jesus continues his life and work  
through his Church.*

## OBJECTIVE:

To deepen the child's understanding of the Church and to help the child experience the Church as Christian community.

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>There are three persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This is the Holy Trinity. 232, 234, 237, 261, 266</p> <p>The love the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have one for the other in the Trinity is the model of the love we are to have for one another. 257, 850, 1878</p>	<p>We always use God's name with reverence. 203, 2142-44, 2146</p> <p>God's love embraces all people of the world. Therefore, our love and respect must exclude no one. 221-22, 225, 735</p>	<p>Jesus revealing the Father and the Holy Spirit John 14:9-10; 26</p>	<p>Review the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be (Doxology). 1235, 2157, 2649</p> <p>Pray with the children for peace and unity in the world community. 2304, 2307, 2317, 2646-47</p>
<p>Jesus is the Son sent by God the Father. During his life on earth, Jesus gathered a community of followers, called disciples. 422-23, 443-45, 542, 787</p> <p>He taught this community of followers about the Kingdom of God which begins on earth and reaches its fullness in heaven. 542-46, 567, 672, 787</p> <p>He shared their joys and sorrows and healed their illnesses. 517, 544-45, 549, 787</p>	<p>God sent his Son, Jesus, to show us how to love God, others and ourselves. 459, 520, 2074</p> <p>When we love as Jesus taught us, God's kingdom becomes more visible in our world. 541, 669, 1823, 1967, 1984, 2820</p>	<p>Jesus sent by the Father John 3:16</p> <p>Parables of the Kingdom Matthew 13:44-46</p> <p>The Wedding at Cana John 2:1-11</p> <p>The Widow's Son Luke 7:11-17</p> <p>The Multiplication of the Loves Mark 6:34-44</p>	<p>Remind the children that in the Lord's Prayer we pray for God's kingdom to come. 2818-21</p>



Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>We too are called to follow Jesus, and to be part of his Body, the Church. 521, 562, 787-89, 805-07</p> <p>Jesus taught that his true followers are those who love everyone. 826, 850-51, 1824-26 2055, 2069, 2196-97</p>	<p>Some of the ways we follow Jesus are by showing respect for life and the earth, and by loving other people. 1823, 2415-16</p> <p>Respect for life extends from the unborn to the elderly. 2258, 2270, 2273, 2276</p> <p>It includes love of ourselves by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- respecting our bodies, and 362, 364</li> <li>- developing our gifts and talents. 306-07</li> </ul> <p>We are to care for others by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- respecting their person, 1881, 1889, 1929</li> <li>- reputation, 2475, 2477, 2479, 2507</li> <li>- property and possessions. 2401, 2408-09</li> </ul> <p>In justice, the resources of the earth are to be cared for and shared. This is called stewardship. 299, 339, 340-41, 346, 354, 373 2402, 2404, 2415, 2459</p> <p>We have special responsibilities to show love and reverence to our parents or guardians and to be kind to all other family members. 2197-2200, 2204-06 2208, 2212, 2215-17, 2219</p>	<p>The Two Great Commandments Luke 10:25-28</p> <p>The Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:29-37</p> <p>Love of Enemies Matthew 5:43-46</p> <p>Love as the Sign of the Christian Community John 15:12</p>	<p>Teach the significance of the Sign of Peace at Mass. 1345.6, 1398, 1824, 2854</p> <p>Help the children to see the sacredness of human life where it is most vulnerable. 2270, 2276</p> <p>Encourage personal prayer for those who hurt us as well as those who are good to us. 2635-36, 2740 2745, 2844, 2862</p> <p>Teach the children to thank God for the gifts of the earth. Where possible, have a blessing of animals. 339-41, 1671, 1674-75, 2626</p>
<p>Refusing to love God, ourselves and our neighbors is sinful. 1849, 1856, 1869, 2094</p>	<p>We sin when we deliberately choose not to obey the Commandments of God. We must say we are sorry, ask to be forgiven and make up for the wrong we have done. 1450, 1455, 1459, 1847-48, 1857-60, 2075</p>	<p>Sin 1 John 4:20-21</p>	<p>Review the Act of Contrition (Grade 2- Page 6) 1451-53</p>
<p>Jesus is our Savior. He died on the cross for us and rose from the dead. 430, 601, 654</p>		<p>Jesus as Savior 1 Cor 15:1-5</p>	<p>Review with the children the meaning of Lent and Easter. 1095, 1169</p>

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>At the Ascension, the Risen Jesus returned to his Father. 659-63</p> <p>On Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon his people to continue his work. 731-32, 767, 1076, 1287</p>	<p>As Jesus' disciples, we follow him in this life to happiness forever with the Father in heaven. 541-42, 764, 1716-19, 1710, 1721, 1726</p> <p>It is the grace of the Holy Spirit that enables us to follow Jesus. 731-32, 735-36</p>	<p>Ascension Mark 16:19-20</p> <p>Pentecost Acts of the Apostles 2:1-13</p>	<p>Prepare the children for the celebration of the feast of the Ascension, forty days after Easter. 659, 665-67, 670</p> <p>Review with the children that part of the Apostles' Creed that pertains to Jesus' resurrection and ascension.</p> <p>Prepare the children for the celebration of the Feast of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter. Pentecost marks the birth of the Church. 731-32</p>
<p>The Church, the people of God, continues Jesus' mission on earth. The Catholic Church is a community of people who share the same faith and sacraments and are united in the Holy Spirit under the leadership of the Pope and the bishops. 767, 814, 816, 830-31 838, 849</p>	<p>As members of the Church, we are to do all we can to continue Jesus' mission of bringing the Good News of salvation to all the world. 738, 767, 849, 852, 900 905, 913, 2044</p>	<p>The "Great Commission" Matthew 28:18-20</p>	<p>Teach the General Intercessions at Mass as a community prayer for the needs of the Church and the world. 1345, 1349</p>
<p>Through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation we receive the fullness of the Spirit and become members of the Church. 1212-13, 1275, 1316, 1322</p> <p>In the Sacrament of Baptism, God gives us his life. Baptism takes away original sin and personal sin and strengthens us against the effects of original sin. We are born into new life by which we become adopted children of the Father, a member of the Body of Christ, and a temple of the Holy Spirit. 977, 1213, 1215, 1263, 1279, 1987</p>		<p>Christian Initiation Acts 2:36-47</p> <p>Baptism Acts of the Apostles 2:38</p>	<p>Explain the significance of baptismal water in the Rite of Baptism. 1214-25</p>

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the life of faith grows in us and in the Spirit empowers us to be witnesses to Christ. 1285, 1303</p> <p>In the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, Jesus feeds us with his Body and Blood, and makes us one with him and with one another. 1331, 1384, 1391-92, 1396</p>		<p>Confirmation Ephesians 3:16</p> <p>The Eucharist 1 Corinthians 11:23-25</p>	<p>Remind the children that Catholics are obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days. 1359-61, 2042, 2180-82</p> <p>Only validly ordained priests can preside at the Eucharist and consecrate the bread and wine which become the Body and Blood of Christ. 1411</p>
<p>In the Eucharistic Celebration, the Sacrifice of the Mass, Jesus gathers us in worship and thanksgiving, and through the ministry of the priest offers himself to the Father for us. 1348, 1365, 1382, 1410</p>	<p>In the Mass we are given spiritual nourishment to continue Jesus' ministry of service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- through the Word of God which we hear,</li> <li>- through the gift of Jesus whom we receive in Holy Communion. 103, 864, 1212, 1346 1392, 1394, 1397, 2449</li> </ul>	<p>Last Supper Luke 22:19-20</p> <p>Christian Life Acts of the Apostles 2:42</p>	<p>Review the following parts of the Mass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liturgy of the Word,</li> <li>- Liturgy of the Eucharist. 1346</li> </ul>
<p>Through the Sacraments of Healing we are forgiven, strengthened and comforted as members of the Church: 1421</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the Sacrament of Penance, through the absolution of the priest, Jesus forgives our sinful choices (personal sin) and renews or restores our relationship with God and with the Church. 980, 1422, 1424, 1442, 1449, 1468-69</li> <li>- In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, through the anointing with oil of the sick by the priest or bishop, Jesus gives comfort, strength, and peace to the sick, the elderly and the dying. 1511, 1514, 1520</li> </ul>	<p>We often fail to love God and others as we should. The Sacrament of Penance strengthens us to renew our efforts to be more loving. 1468-69</p>	<p>Jesus' Healing Mark 2: 1-12</p> <p>The Parable of the Forgiving Father Luke 15:11-32</p> <p>Jesus healing the sick Matthew 15:29-30</p>	<p>Review the Rite of Reconciliation. 1449, 1491</p> <p>Encourage regular reception of the Sacrament of Penance. 1457-58, 1468</p>

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>Mary has a special place in the Church as Mother of God and Mother of the Church. 495, 509, 963, 967</p>	<p>We turn to Mary, our Mother in heaven, who prays to Jesus for us. She is an example of how her Son wants us to live. 967, 969, 2579, 2674, 2682</p>	<p>Mary as our Mother John 19:26-27a</p>	<p>Explain the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, which celebrates that Mary was raised body and soul into heaven. 966, 974</p> <p>This feast strengthens our Catholic belief in the resurrection of the body. It also reminds us of the dignity of the body. 966, 974, 1004</p> <p>Complete the teaching of the Apostles' Creed 'I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.'</p>
<p>Jesus chose the Apostles to serve his people in a special way. He named Peter as their leader. 2, 551-53, 858-59 881, 981</p> <p>The Pope, the Vicar of Christ, is the successor of Saint Peter. The bishops, established by the Holy Spirit, are the successors of the apostles and together form the College of Bishops. The Pope is the head of the College of Bishops. 861-62, 881, 936, 938</p> <p>In Jesus' name, the Pope and bishops continue: - to teach, - to sanctify, - to govern. 873</p>	<p>We pray for and are guided by our Church leaders. 87, 1354, 2634-36</p> <p>The Church's leadership helps us to follow Jesus. We listen and are guided by its teaching.</p>	<p>The Call of the Twelve Apostles Luke 6:12-16</p> <p>Peter, the Rock Matthew 16:18-20</p> <p>Mission to the World Matthew 28:16-20</p>	<p>Encourage prayer for all members of the Church and in a special way for Church leaders. 2634-36</p> <p>Explain that at every Mass we pray for our Pope and the bishop of our diocese. 1354</p> <p>Have the children learn the names of the Pope and the bishop of our diocese.</p>
<p>We experience the Church most immediately in our local parish. 752, 2179, 2226</p>		<p>Christian Community Acts 4:32-35</p>	<p>Prepare the children to celebrate the feast day of their parish.</p> <p>Have the children learn the name of the pastor and parish personnel.</p>

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed (Grade 1 – Page 6)

## **WORDS TO BE TAUGHT**

Annunciation 490	Lay man, lay woman 897	Religious Sister 925
Assumption 974	Parables 546	Savior 430, 457
Bishop 1555, 1594	Pastor 2179	Stewardship 2402
College of Bishops 857	Pope 881-82	Trinity 234
Deacon 1570	Priest 1547	Vicar of Christ 936
Disciple 787, 1816	Religious Brother 925	Word of God 135
Infallibility 889		

## **LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT**

Presider's Chair 1184	Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 132
Sacred Vessels 1672	Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199
Sacristy	Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community. 2179, 2226
Vestments	

## **PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT**

The Rosary: Joyful Mysteries 971, 1674

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## **REVIEW PRAYERS OF THE PREVIOUS GRADES**

Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157  
Our Father 2759  
Hail Mary 2676-77  
The Glory Be (Doxology, Grade 1 – Page 5)  
Act of Contrition (Grade 2 - Page 6)  
Morning and evening prayer 2659, 2685, 2698  
Grace at meals 2698, 2834  
Spontaneous prayer 2590, 2659-60  
Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament 1380





## THEME:

*As God's people, we are called to live as Jesus did,  
choosing a life of love,  
characterized by obedience to God  
and service to others.*

## OBJECTIVE:

To help the children form their consciences according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, and to learn the basis of Christian morality as taught in the Old and New Testaments.

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>God is all good. 385</p> <p>Holiness is sharing in God's goodness and responding to God's love by the way we live, especially by the love we show our neighbor, the poor, the needy and even our enemies. 1709, 1825, 2013</p>	<p>Virtue is a habitual and strong disposition to good. As we grow in virtue we grow in holiness. 1833</p>	<p>God's goodness Psalm 118:1</p>	<p>Teach the children the Sanctus (see Grade 4 - Page 7), which we sing or say at Mass to praise God. 269, 559, 1352, 2809</p>
<p>In the work of creation human beings first saw traces of the Mystery of God. Creation reflects the infinite beauty, wisdom and goodness of the Creator. 198, 237, 341</p>	<p>We must respect the life and goodness of every living creature. We must avoid any misuse of things, which would show contempt for the Creator and do harm to the earth's environment. 339</p>	<p>God's glory in creation Psalm 8</p>	
<p>Created in God's image, we have the ability to think, to make choices (free will) and to love. 1700, 1730</p> <p>Throughout our lives God continually calls us and graces us to know the good, and to love unselfishly. 30, 1704, 2028</p> <p>Learning to know and to choose the good that God desires for us is the lifelong process of conscience formation. 1777, 1784</p>	<p>The steps for making a good moral choice are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pray for the help of the Holy Spirit,</li> <li>- recall God's law and the Church's teachings,</li> <li>- consider the consequences of the choice,</li> <li>- seek advice when necessary,</li> <li>- remember Jesus is with us and speak with him about the choice,</li> <li>- recall that our decision will affect our relationship with God and others.</li> </ul> <p>1785-89, 1811</p> <p>It is through conscience that we judge whether an act is right or wrong. In forming our consciences we are guided by the Scriptures as interpreted by the Catholic Church, the teachings of the Catholic Church and the example of those who are good. 1749, 1778, 1785</p>	<p>Created in God's image Genesis 1:27, 31 Genesis 2:4b-25</p> <p>God's call to choose the good Deuteronomy 30:16</p> <p>Faith and Works James 2:14-17</p>	<p>Present Lent as a season of renewal in preparation for Easter. Explain the purpose of prayer, penance and fasting, especially during Lent. 1095, 1434, 1438</p> <p>Teach the children to pray the Stations of the Cross. 1674-75, 1785</p>



Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
	<p>We often feel drawn to make selfish choices. This is called “temptation.” Temptations in themselves, however, are not sinful. 2847-48</p> <p>Feelings are not always accurate signs of whether a choice is right or wrong.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sometimes we feel sad even though we have made a good moral choice.</li> <li>- Sometimes we feel glad even though we have made a wrong moral choice.</li> </ul> <p>1768</p> <p>By the development of conscience, a person is able to take responsibility for his or her choices. 1781</p>		<p>Encourage the children to reflect each evening on how they have lived as a Christian that day (examination of conscience). 1779, 1784-85</p> <p>Teach them to thank God when they succeed with his help in doing good and to ask forgiveness when they fail. 1847, 2007-09</p>
<p>We sin when we disobey God and his Law, whether by thought, word, action or omission. Serious sin, that is, completely turning away from God, is called “mortal.” Less serious sin is called “venial.”</p> <p>1849, 1853, 1855, 1857-59, 1862-63</p>		<p>Choice of Evil Genesis 3:1-24 Genesis 4:1-16</p>	
<p>God’s Self-Revelation was extended in history to a Chosen People with whom God made a covenant.</p> <p>59-60, 62, 121, 2059</p>	<p>Just as God was with the Chosen People making them his own, so God is with us today making us his own.</p> <p>422, 1692, 2084</p>	<p>Call of Abraham Genesis 12:1-3 Covenant Promise Exodus 19:3-6</p>	<p>Encourage the children to pray an Act of Faith frequently.</p> <p>1816, 2662</p>

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>Through this covenant, God taught the Chosen People how to live. This way of life is expressed particularly in the Two Great Commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” Luke 10:27. 2055, 2061</p> <p>In order that they might live this covenant, God gave the Chosen People the Ten Commandments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.</li> <li>2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.</li> <li>3. Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day.</li> <li>4. Honor your father and your mother.</li> <li>5. You shall not kill.</li> <li>6. You shall not commit adultery.</li> <li>7. You shall not steal.</li> <li>8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.</li> <li>9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.</li> <li>10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.</li> </ol> <p>2056-57, 2060-61</p>	<p>The Commandments help us to find happiness, in judging right from wrong and in knowing how to love God, our neighbor and ourselves. 1548-49, 1962, 2057, 2064</p> <p>(It is important that what is commanded or forbidden be explained according to the age level of the children using catechetical materials that are in conformity with the U. S. Bishop’s Protocol.)</p> <p>The Ten Commandments express our fundamental duties toward God and neighbor. We are obliged to live by them always and everywhere. 2062, 2072, 2083</p> <p>The first three concern love of God, and the other seven, love of neighbor. They form an organic whole. To disobey one is to infringe on all the others. 2067, 2069</p>	<p>The Two Great Commandments Luke 10:27</p> <p>The Ten Commandments Exodus 20:1-17</p>	<p>Have the children memorize the Two Great Commandments. 2055</p> <p>Have the children memorize the Ten Commandments. 2064-65</p>
<p>God’s self-revelation was brought to fullness in Jesus who made a New Covenant with his people. 66, 73, 1965</p>	<p>The Covenant relationship means that God is with us always. We respond by choosing to follow the way of life God has given us. 1693-94, 1723-24</p>	<p>Jesus, the Revelation of God John 1:17-18</p>	<p>Explain Advent as a season of expectancy. Present such symbols and practices as the Advent Wreath and the Jesse Tree. 65, 522, 524, 1095</p>

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
Jesus not only reaffirmed the commandments of the Old Covenant, but also gave a new commandment: “Love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other.” (John 13:34) 459, 1823, 1968, 1970, 1972		The New Commandment John 15:12	Have the children memorize the new commandment (John 15:12). 1823-24
True freedom comes from following Jesus’ law of love. 1742 Society’s responsibility is to support and not obstruct our freedom for doing good. 1747	The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. 1731, 1733, 1740-44	Freedom Galatians 5:1 John 8:32, 36	
In describing the final judgment (Matthew 25:1-46), Jesus places particular emphasis on our responses to the needs of our brothers and sisters. 678, 682, 1039, 1041  Jesus gave us God’s plan for our true happiness in the Sermon on the Mount, which expresses the ideals of Christian behavior. 764, 1966, 1983, 2763  In this Sermon, Jesus also gave us the Beatitudes which should be the marks of his followers. 1716-18	The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are ways of showing our love for Jesus, who identifies with the poor and needy. 2444, 2447-48  Corporal Works of Mercy: - feed the hungry, - shelter the homeless, - clothe the naked, - care for the sick, - help the imprisoned, - bury the dead. 2447  Spiritual Works of Mercy: - teach the ignorant, - give advice to those who need it, - comfort and console those who suffer, - bear wrongs patiently, - forgive those who hurt us. 2447  Give the children examples of how they can put these works of mercy into practice in their daily lives. 2448  The more we follow Jesus, the more our lives can be described in terms of the Beatitudes. 1717	The Final Judgment Matthew 25:31-46          Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5-7  Beatitudes Matthew 5:1-12	Have the children memorize the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. 2447          Some ways that the Christian community helps those in need are through the collection at Sunday Mass, and Lenten almsgiving. 1351, 1438, 2462-63

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
The Holy Spirit is the Person of the Blessed Trinity who enables us to respond to God's Covenant of love by living as Jesus did. 683, 729, 735-36	We need to listen to the Holy Spirit who is always present guiding us throughout our day. 687, 1724, 1788, 2659-60	Gift of the Spirit Romans 5:5b Galatians 5:25	Encourage the children to pray to the Holy Spirit. 687, 2670-72, 2744
<p>Today, the Catholic Christian community, guided by the Holy Spirit, supports us in our response to God's covenant of love:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- by teaching us God's Commandments,</li> <li>- by helping us form right consciences,</li> <li>- by pointing to the example of Jesus, Mary, the saints and all who live the covenant.</li> </ul> <p>459, 1785, 2030-33</p>	<p>By participation in our family and parish communities, we both give and receive support for living the Christian life.</p> <p>1656-57, 2179, 2226-27</p> <p>We find among the saints examples of people who lived Jesus' message in the midst of misunderstandings, discrimination, injustice and even persecution.</p> <p>1717, 1808, 2015, 2473-74</p>	<p>Christian Community Ephesians 5:1</p> <p>Renewal of the Covenant 1 Corinthians 11:23-26</p>	<p>Present the Eucharist as an ever present renewal of God's covenant with us, by which the unity of believers, both in heaven and on earth, (the Communion of Saints) forms one body in Christ.</p> <p>613, 948, 1337, 1365-66</p> <p>Help the children to examine their consciences, with prayer and reflection.</p> <p>1454, 1779, 1784-85</p> <p>Arrange opportunities for the reception of the Sacrament of Penance, within a communal celebration if possible.</p> <p>1140, 1438, 1482</p> <p>Explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Feast of All Saints, November 1,</li> <li>- All Souls Day, November 2</li> <li>- Devotion to the saints,</li> <li>- Patron saints,</li> <li>- Forms of Popular Catholic Piety</li> <li>- Apostles' Creed: "the communion of saints."</li> </ul> <p>688, 946-59, 1679, 1717 2030, 2156, 2683</p>

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Review the Apostles' Creed (Grade 1 – Page 6)

## WORDS TO BE TAUGHT

Absolution 1449

Beatitudes 1716

Commandment 2055, 2082

Communion of Saints 946

Conscience 1776

Contrition 1451

Corporal Works of Mercy 2447

Covenant 70-72, 613

Holiness 2013

New Testament 124

Old Testament 121

Saint 1717, 828

Sanctus 559, 1352

Spiritual Works of Mercy 2447

Temptation 2847

## LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 132

Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199

Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community. 2179, 2226

## PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

Sanctus\*

## PRAYERS TO BE ENCOURAGED

Act of Faith

Stations of the Cross 1674

## REVIEW PRAYERS OF THE PREVIOUS GRADES

Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157

Our Father 2759

Hail Mary 2676-77

The Glory Be (Doxology, Grade 1 – Page 5)

Act of Contrition (Grade 2 - Page 6)

Simple responses at Mass

Morning and evening prayer 2698, 2685, 2659

Grace at meals 2834, 2698

Spontaneous prayer 2590, 2659-60

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament 1380

Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

### \*SANCTUS

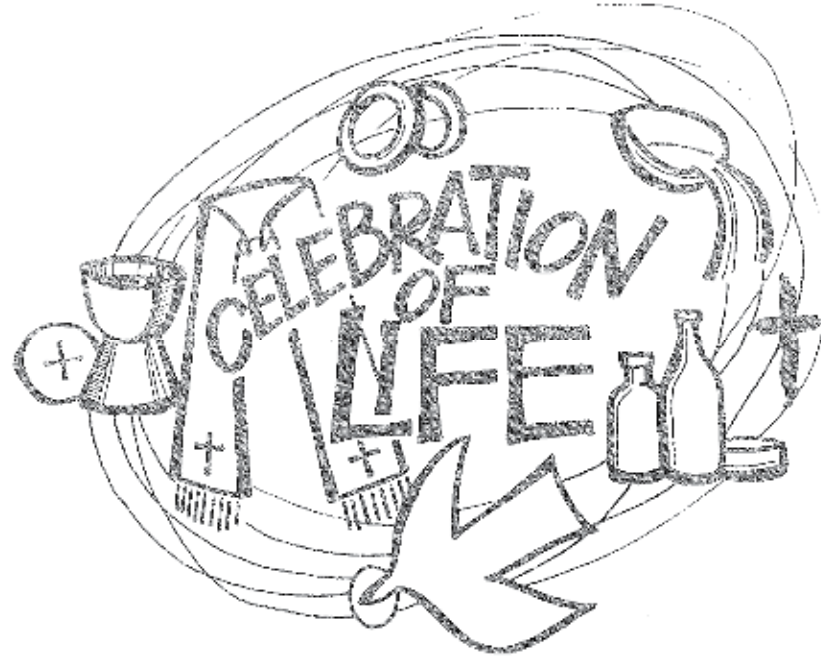
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.





## THEME:

*Through the sacraments  
the Church celebrates Christ's saving action in our lives.*

## OBJECTIVE:

To help the child experience and understand the rites of the sacraments, and so become a more conscious and active participant in the Church's sacramental life.

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>God is the source of all life. We participate in God's own life particularly through the sacraments. 301, 338, 1072, 1082</p> <p>The signs and symbols of the sacraments are drawn from creation and human culture, given special meaning by the events of the Old Covenant, and reach their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. 1145, 1151, 1189</p> <p>A sacrament is a sign by which Jesus shares God's life, grace, with us. 1129, 1131</p>	<p>By preparing for and receiving the sacraments prayerfully, our relationship with the Risen Lord is deepened, and we are strengthened to live the Christian life more fully. 1073, 1128, 1133-34, 2655</p>	<p>God's Revelation John 1:1-18</p> <p>God Revealed in the Sacraments Luke 22:7-20 Romans 1:19-20</p> <p>Jesus as the fullness of life John 10:10b</p> <p>The Vine and the Branches John 15:1-7</p>	<p>Teach the children the Gloria, which we sing or say at Sunday Mass. Explain that in this hymn we praise God simply for being God. 333, 525, 2639</p> <p>Help the children recognize that God speaks to us through the visible creation. Light and darkness, wind and fire, water and earth, the tree and its fruit speak of God and symbolize both his greatness and his nearness. 1147, 2569</p> <p>Foster an awareness of sacraments as both communal and personal celebrations that touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life. 1140-41, 1210</p>
<p>The Church celebrates seven sacraments: Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist; Sacraments of Healing: Penance, Anointing of the Sick; Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Holy Orders, Matrimony. 1113, 1210-11</p>			<p>During the presentation of each sacrament, explain its signs and symbols. 1145-52</p>
<p>Through the sacraments of Christian Initiation we receive the fullness of the Spirit and become members of the Church. 1212</p>	<p>The sacraments of Christian Initiation give to all Christ's disciples a common vocation: the vocation to holiness and to evangelization, which is the mission of bringing the Good News to the world. 1533</p>	<p>Sacraments of Initiation John 6:51 Acts 10:44-48</p>	



Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>Baptism is the sacrament by which we begin our life in the Church. We are reborn of water and the Spirit and share in the life of the risen Lord. Baptism frees us from original sin and takes away all personal sins.</p> <p>1213, 1263, 1265, 1267, 1272, 1279</p>	<p>Each day we are called to live our Baptismal promises by expressing our love for God and each other through word and action.</p> <p>1254, 1266, 1691, 2044</p> <p>By Baptism we become members of a Church community committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sharing the good news of Jesus with those who do not yet believe in him, 831, 848-52, 863</li> <li>- helping all to holiness in Christ, 1694, 2013</li> <li>- fostering respect for the dignity of each and every person, 1702, 2212</li> <li>- building a peaceful society, 1879, 1906-09, 2304</li> <li>- providing a just share of the earth's resources for all. 2426, 2446</li> </ul> <p>We have an obligation to do what we can, at our age level, to further this commitment.</p> <p>2207-08, 2219, 2227</p> <p>For those who die without Baptism we trust in God's love and mercy and pray for their salvation. 1283</p>	<p>Baptism</p> <p>Matthew 28:19</p> <p>John 3-5</p> <p>Galatians 3:27</p>	<p>A bishop, priest or deacon is the ordinary minister of Baptism. In an emergency, anyone can and should baptize. 1256</p> <p>The essential rite of Baptism is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the immersing in water or pouring water on the candidate's head, while pronouncing the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."</li> </ul> <p>1239-40, 1278</p> <p>Significant symbols in the sacrament of Baptism are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- anointing before baptism (oil of catechumens).</li> <li>- immersing in or pouring of water,</li> <li>- clothing with a white garment,</li> <li>- giving a lighted candle,</li> <li>- anointing after baptism (sacred chrism). 1237-38, 1243</li> </ul>
<p>Confirmation is the sacrament by which we receive in a special way the Holy Spirit who empowers us to grow in faith, obliging us to be Jesus' witnesses.</p> <p>1285</p>	<p>Confirmation enables us courageously to witness to Jesus by what we say and what we do.</p> <p>1293-96, 1303-05</p> <p>We are to learn and to do all we can to foster unity, justice, charity and peace, bringing about God's Kingdom.</p> <p>1709, 2045-46</p> <p>We in the Church must do what we can to help all men and women of good will in their efforts to change evil social structures.</p> <p>1869, 1926, 1928</p>	<p>Confirmation</p> <p>Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4</p> <p>Acts of the Apostles 19:5-6</p>	<p>The bishop is the original and usual minister of Confirmation. Under certain circumstances a priest may confirm. 1312-14</p> <p>The essential rite of Confirmation is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the anointing with chrism, oil blessed by the bishop on Holy Thursday,</li> <li>- the laying on of hands,</li> <li>- the words the bishop says: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." 1300</li> </ul>

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>The Eucharist is the sacrament in which the Lord Jesus himself, by the power of his word and Spirit, is present under the appearances of bread and wine, offered and received. By this sacrament, the Church lives and grows. 1323, 1357-58, 1392</p> <p>At the Eucharistic celebration we gather in community to praise and thank the Father, to receive God's Word, and to celebrate Jesus' Paschal Mystery, that is, the mystery of his suffering, death and resurrection. Jesus feeds us with his Body and Blood making us one with him and with each other. 1104, 1348-49, 1382, 1391, 1396</p> <p>The change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus is called "transubstantiation." 1374-76</p>	<p>As Catholics we have the privilege and serious obligation to come together to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays and holy days of obligation. 2042-43, 2180-82</p> <p>In addition, we are encouraged to participate in the Eucharistic celebration on other occasions. 1389</p> <p>One way we bring the meaning of the Mass into our daily lives is by striving to live in peace with one another. 1394, 1397-98, 2305</p>	<p>The Eucharist Luke 22:14-20 John 6:51</p> <p>Tradition of the Institution Mark 14:22-25 1 Corinthians 11:23-26</p>	<p>Explain the parts of the Eucharistic Celebration. 1348-55</p> <p>Introduce the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). 2177</p> <p>Have the children memorize the Holy Days of Obligation and explain the meaning of each one:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mary, Mother of God: January 1,</li> <li>- Ascension Thursday: 40 days after Easter;</li> <li>- Assumption of Mary: August 15;</li> <li>- All Saints: November 1;</li> <li>- Immaculate Conception, December 8,</li> <li>- Christmas: December 25.</li> </ul> <p>2043, 2177 with footnote 111 2185, 2187-88, 2193</p>
<p>Through the Sacraments of Healing, we are strengthened as members of the Church. 1421</p>	<p>There is always a need for forgiveness and reconciliation in human relationships. By being reconciled and at peace with God and others, we contribute to peace and reconciliation in the world. 1468-69, 1696, 1847, 1849, 1865</p>	<p>Jesus Cures the Sick Mark 1:30-31</p>	
<p>Penance is the sacrament by which we receive God's merciful forgiveness for our personal sins and are reconciled with God, the Christian community, and ourselves. 1422, 1440, 1469</p> <p>A priest forgives sin in God's name. 1441, 1449, 1481</p>	<p>A relationship with God is broken off completely when serious or mortal sin is committed. A relationship with God is weakened when venial sin is committed. 1855-56, 1862-63</p> <p>True repentance means turning toward God with all our heart, and turning away from evil with God's help. 1430-31, 1439</p> <p>Anyone aware of having sinned mortally must not receive Communion without having received absolution in the Sacrament of Penance. 1415</p>	<p>Penance Luke 5:17-26 John 20: 22-23</p> <p>The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-14</p>	<p>The sign of Penance is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the words a priest says as he extends his hand: "I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."</li> </ul> <p>1449</p> <p>The essential elements of the Sacrament of Penance are: contrition, confession, doing penance (satisfaction), and absolution. 1448-49, 1451, 1455-56, 1459-60</p>

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
	<p>When one refuses to share in a loving relationship with God and others, such a choice is selfish and sinful. 1849, 1871</p> <p>Sin has both personal and communal aspects. Some results of sin in our society are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- war,</li> <li>- prejudice,</li> <li>- poverty,</li> <li>- homelessness,</li> <li>- crime and violence,</li> <li>- exploitation of others economically or sexually,</li> <li>- substance abuse.</li> </ul> <p>1868-69</p>		<p>During Advent and Lent especially, arrange opportunities for the reception of the Sacrament of Penance. 1438</p> <p>Review the preparation for the Sacrament of Penance. 1450,1454</p> <p>Encourage the children to pray an Act of Love frequently.</p>
<p>The Anointing of the Sick is the Sacrament in which the priest anoints with oil the seriously ill or aged so that through the power of Jesus they may be forgiven their sins, comforted in their suffering, and restored to health in spirit and sometimes in body as well. 1499-1501,1514</p>	<p>We are responsible to take care of our own health and to be concerned for the health of others. However, we should recognize that sickness and suffering are a part of life here on earth. 1500-01, 1508, 2288</p> <p>It is our duty to care for the sick and suffering through prayer, visits and service. 2447-48, 2276</p>	<p>Anointing of the Sick James 5:14-15</p> <p>Jesus' compassion Matthew 14:14 Luke 7:11-15</p>	<p>A priest or bishop is the minister of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The Sacrament may be received more than once. 1516</p> <p>The principal elements of the Anointing of the Sick are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the imposition of hands,</li> <li>- the anointing of the forehead and the hands with oil of the sick, blessed by the bishop. 1519,1531</li> </ul> <p>Lead the children in a meditation on Jesus' compassion for the sick and suffering. Pray with them for those who are sick and dying. 1503-10</p>
<p>We are called to love and serve God. 1721, 1728</p>	<p>Individual Christians respond to this call or "vocation":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in the single life,</li> <li>- in the married life,</li> <li>- in the religious life, through vows of poverty, chastity and obedience,</li> <li>- in the ordained ministry.</li> </ul> <p>916, 1533-34,1546-47, 1658</p>	<p>The Rich Young Man Matthew 19:16-30</p>	<p>Encourage the children to pray for openness to God's calling in their lives. 1578,1602, 1620, 1822-29 2013, 2700</p>

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
The Sacraments at the Service of Communion (that is, the community of the Church) are Matrimony and Holy Orders. They confer a particular mission, directed toward others. They are sacraments of service. 1534-35		Matrimony Matthew 19:5-6  Need for Assistants Acts 6:1-6	
Matrimony is the sacrament by which a baptized man and a baptized woman are united as husband and wife and freely enter in to a permanent, loving and life-giving covenant of fidelity to each other. 1638-39	We must try to make our lives in our homes lives of faith, peace, caring and love. 1657, 2205-06, 2217, 2224  As individuals and as members of the Christian community, we support married couples by rejoicing in their happiness, assisting them in their needs, and praying for them always. 1647, 2204, 2207-09  (Divorce and other serious family problems are frequent occurrences in our times. Sensitivity to these realities needs to be maintained when teaching this sacrament.) 1649-51, 1656	Matrimony Matthew 19:5-6 Ephesians 5:25-32	The man and the woman are themselves the ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony. 1623,1626-27  A priest or deacon is the official witness of the Church. Two other witnesses are also to be present. 1630  The essential element of Matrimony is: the public exchange of consent between the man and the woman to be faithful to each other as husband and wife for life. 1626
Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time. It is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: deacon, priest, bishop (diaconate, presbyterate, episcopate). 1536, 1548-49, 1551-52, 1554, 1593	By Holy Orders, bishops and priests share what is called the ministerial priesthood. Deacons are ordained to help the bishops and priests. 1547, 1554, 1594-96  By Baptism, we all share in the priesthood of the faithful in which Jesus calls us to worship God, to spread the Good News and to lead lives of service. 784, 1268, 1546-47  The ministerial priesthood serves the common priesthood of all the faithful. 1120, 1547,1591-92	Ordination Acts of the Apostles 6:1-6 2 Timothy 1:6  Institution of the Eucharist Matthew 26:26-30	The bishop is the minister of Holy Orders. 1576  The essential rite of the Sacrament of Holy Orders is: - the laying on of hands, - the prayer of consecration. 1573

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Review the Apostles' Creed (Grade 1 – Page 6)

## WORDS TO BE TAUGHT

Absolution 1449  
Confession 1455  
Consecrated Life 916  
Contrition 1451  
Evangelization 848  
Gloria 333  
Minister 874, 876, 903

Ordination 1537-38  
Original Sin 397, 417  
Paschal Mystery 654  
Repentance 1439, 1492  
Sacrament 1131  
Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick 1499  
Sacrament of Confirmation 1285

Sacrament of Holy Orders 1536  
Sacrament of Matrimony 1601  
Sign 1075, 1123, 1145  
Transubstantiation 1376  
Vocation 1533  
Vow of Poverty 915  
Vow of Chastity 915  
Vow of Obedience 915

## LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 132  
Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199  
Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community,  
in particular in the rites of the Sacraments. 2179, 2226

## PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT

Gloria\*  
Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

## PRAYERS TO BE ENCOURAGED

Act of Love 2658

## REVIEW PRAYERS OF THE PREVIOUS GRADES

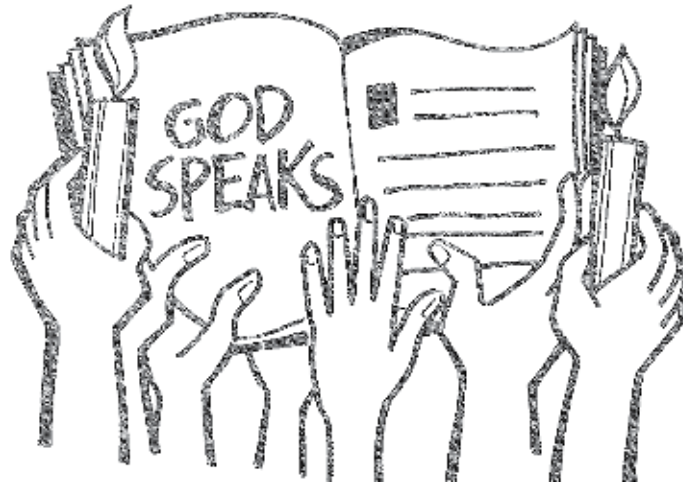
Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157  
The Glory Be (Doxology, Grade 1- Page 5)  
Spontaneous prayer 2590, 2659-60  
Stations of the Cross 1674  
Morning and evening prayer 2659, 2685, 2698  
Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament 1380  
Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary 971, 1674  
Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

Our Father 2759  
Hail Mary 2676-77  
Act of Faith  
Sanctus (Grade 4 - Page 7) 1352, 559  
Grace at meals 2834, 2698  
Act of Contrition (Grade 2 – Page 6)  
Simple responses at Mass

### \*GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father, have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.





## THEME:

*God's saving actions are found throughout history.  
The Bible, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,  
records God's plan of salvation.*

## OBJECTIVE:

To understand the Old Testament as the revelation of God in the history of a people,  
a revelation fulfilled in the New Testament.

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>Sacred Scripture, also called the Bible, is the written Revelation of God. It is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.</p> <p>81, 105-08, 120</p>			
<p>Sacred Scripture is an important guide for living as Christians. It should be a regular source for study and prayer in order to grow in the understanding of ourselves and of God's loving will for us.</p> <p>94-95, 111-14, 131-33</p> <p>The Word of God in Sacred Scripture is proclaimed at Mass for our spiritual nourishment. This is called the Liturgy of the Word.</p> <p>1100-02, 1349</p>	<p>The Church encourages our prayerful study of Sacred Scripture so that we can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- learn about God,</li> <li>- develop a loving relationship with God,</li> <li>- hear God's message of love and forgiveness,</li> <li>- live the way God desires us to live.</li> </ul> <p>131-33</p>	<p>Scripture: The Word of God</p> <p>2 Timothy 3:15-17</p> <p>1 John 1:1-4</p>	<p>During each lesson have the Sacred Scriptures in a place of honor. Teach the children to use them reverently.</p> <p>103-04, 132, 141</p> <p>Provide opportunities for prayer based on Sacred Scripture.</p> <p>1101, 2653-54</p> <p>Prepare the children to be lectors at children's liturgies and class prayer services.</p> <p>1100, 1143-44</p>
<p>Sacred Scripture is the inspired Word of God. Inspiration means that the authors were guided by God in their writing.</p> <p>105-06</p> <p>These authors used many different literary forms to convey God's message. Some of these are historical accounts, parables, poetry, letters, allegories and proverbs.</p> <p>109-10</p> <p>One way that the Catholic Christian community gains deeper understanding of revelation is through documents of the Councils, encyclicals of the Popes and pastoral letters of the bishops.</p> <p>85-86, 66</p>		<p>Scripture: The Word of God</p> <p>John 16:25</p> <p>2 Timothy 3:16-17</p> <p>2 Peter 1:19-21</p>	



Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>The Old Testament begins with the Book of Genesis. Some important stories in this book are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the story of creation, which emphasizes that from nothing God made all things good, to reveal God's goodness and to form a single web of life. The story of creation also shows that man and woman were formed in God's image and likeness. 54, 289, 296, 299, 340, 344, 355</li> <li>- the story of the fall of Adam and Eve, which conveys the truth of our sinfulness and recounts God's promise of redemption. 55, 70, 408, 410</li> <li>- the story of Noah and the flood, which illustrates the destructiveness of sin and God's determination to save us. 56, 71</li> </ul>	<p>We appreciate and respect all of God's visible creation. We recognize the goodness of every living creature, and we respect the integrity of the whole of creation. We treat each human life as sacred because human beings are created to share by knowledge and love in God's own life. 294, 299, 339, 356, 2258, 2415</p> <p>We are to use our gift of free will to make choices which are good. Jesus offers us his Spirit who assists us in making these choices. 908, 1730-34, 1741-42, 2008</p> <p>We experience the destructiveness of sin in our own lives and in the world through the many manifestations of violence, injustice and evil which deprive people of their rights and dignity, and bring about ecological disasters. 1849-51, 1865, 1868-69</p>	<p>Creation Genesis 2:4-7</p> <p>Adam and Eve Genesis 2:15-24 3:1-24</p> <p>Cain and Abel Genesis 4:1-16</p> <p>Noah Genesis 7,8</p>	<p>Dramatize some significant events of Genesis.</p>
<p>The Old Testament is the account of God's saving actions in the history of the Jewish people whom God chose as his own. 218</p>	<p>The Christian people regard the Jewish people of the Old Testament as our ancestors in faith. We also have a unique relationship with the Jewish people of today because of our common spiritual heritage. 60-61, 123, 145-46, 839</p>	<p>Genealogy of Jesus Matthew 1:1-17</p> <p>Affirmation of Jesus as Ruler of Israel Matthew 2:5-6</p> <p>Savior foretold Luke 1:68-79</p>	<p>Pray with the children the Cantic of Zechariah, which the Church prays every day at Morning Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours. Explain that this prayer shows how the Christian Church reverently recalls each morning the promises that were made by God to the Chosen People and fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. 523, 1174</p>

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>Some major figures in the development of God's relationship with the Chosen People are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abraham 59</li> <li>- Isaac 2571-72</li> <li>- Jacob 2573</li> <li>- Joseph 312</li> <li>- Moses 62, 2575</li> <li>- David 2579</li> </ul>	<p>Like men and women in the Old Testament, we are called to live by faith and trust in God. God's faithfulness to us is the model of our faithfulness to him and to one another</p> <p>145-47, 162, 165, 214, 1814</p>	<p>Abraham and Sarah Genesis 17:1-19</p> <p>Isaac and Rebecca Genesis 24:42-49</p> <p>Jacob Genesis 28:10-15</p> <p>Joseph Genesis 37:3-36</p> <p>Moses and the Burning Bush Exodus 3:1-10</p> <p>David 1 Samuel 17:41-51</p>	<p>Pray with the children the Cantic of Mary, the Magnificat, which the Church prays every day at Evening Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours. Explain that the Magnificat, Mary's Song, sings of the great works of God in Mary's life and recalls the eternal promises made to Abraham and his children.</p> <p>273, 722, 1174, 2619</p>
<p>God made a Covenant with the Chosen People. The covenant relationship meant that God would be with them, making them his own. The Chosen People were to respond by following the way of life to which God called them.</p> <p>59-60, 1961, 2060-62</p>		<p>The Covenant Ezekiel 37:26-28</p>	
<p>The central saving event of the Old Testament is the Exodus. It was by the Exodus that God revealed to the Israelites that they were his Chosen People and he was their God.</p> <p>62, 203, 207, 2057, 2084</p>	<p>God's presence continues to save us from the sinfulness in our lives.</p> <p>430, 734-35, 1846</p>	<p>Moses and the Exodus Exodus 3:1-6</p>	<p>If possible, dramatize the ritual of the Passover seder meal. Explain that Jesus' Paschal mystery is the new Passover event.</p> <p>1096, 1150, 1334, 1340, 1344</p>
<p>God spoke to the people through judges and kings, priests and prophets, sages and poets.</p> <p>62-64</p>	<p>Society needs good leaders to do the works of justice and charity. We therefore have an obligation to develop our leadership qualities.</p> <p>1884, 1917</p>	<p>Judge: Deborah Judges 4:4-5</p> <p>King: David 2 Samuel 7:1-7</p>	

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>Prophets are people who hear God's call in their historical situation, proclaim God's Word with power from God, often in the face of opposition, and call people to conversion.</p> <p>61, 64, 218</p> <p>Some of the prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah the Anointed One.</p> <p>453, 711-13</p>	<p>In the situations of our societal and personal lives, we need to listen to God's Word spoken by the prophets. This Word calls us to act with justice and charity even when it is difficult to do so.</p> <p>37-38, 65, 1102, 1808, 1810-11</p>	<p>Prophets Jeremiah 2:5-10 Hosea 4:1 Amos 1:1a</p> <p>Messiah Isaiah 11:1-2, 84</p>	<p>Highlight the Sunday scriptural readings that challenge us to proclaim God's message.</p> <p>1100-02</p>
<p>The New Testament provides an account of the saving actions of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God, made flesh. It speaks of his life, death and resurrection.</p> <p>124-25</p> <p>Jesus, ("Christ the Anointed One") fulfills the Old Covenant by making a New Covenant with us.</p> <p>436, 1093-94</p> <p>He fulfills the Old Testament roles of priest, prophet and king.</p> <p>783, 1093-94</p>	<p>We should live with others as Jesus lived, in justice and with compassion. We reach out particularly to those in need, such as the aged, persons with disabilities, the poor, the homeless, the lonely.</p> <p>544, 1823, 1932</p>	<p>The hope fulfilled Luke 4:16-21</p> <p>The New Covenant Luke 22:14-20</p>	<p>Dramatize a story which shows Jesus' compassion.</p> <p>Explain that in infant baptism, the children are anointed on the crown of the head as a sign that they share in Christ's identity as priest, prophet and king.</p> <p>1241</p>
<p>The Church is a sign of God's presence in the world today through the saving actions of Jesus. These are expressed both in the sacraments and in the faith and good works of the community, the Body of Christ.</p> <p>763-64, 776</p>		<p>Pentecost Acts of the Apostles 2:1-12</p> <p>The Church Matthew 25:31-46 Ephesians 2:19-22</p>	<p>Emphasize the significance of Pentecost and prepare the children to celebrate the feast.</p> <p>726, 731-32, 830, 1076</p>

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>The Church is identified by four marks:  <b>one</b> – because the Church has one source: the Trinity, one founder and head: Christ, and one ‘soul’: the Holy Spirit, 813</p> <p><b>holy</b> - because in union with Christ the Church offers its members sanctification, 823-27</p> <p><b>catholic</b> – because Christ is present in the Church, and the Church is for all peoples of the world, 830-31</p> <p><b>apostolic</b> – because the Church is founded on the apostles in three ways:  1. by remaining in communion with the apostles and sharing the mission given to them by Christ,  2. by keeping and handing on the apostles’ teaching with the help of the Holy Spirit, and  3. by being taught, sanctified and guided by the successors to the apostles: the bishops, assisted by the priests, and in union with the Pope, the Vicar of Christ. 857, 863, 936</p>	<p>Besides the Laws of God, we obey the precepts of the Church which require us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- assist at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation</li> <li>- confess at least once a year if we have committed serious sin,</li> <li>- receive Holy Communion during Eastertime,</li> <li>- fast and abstain on the days appointed,</li> <li>- contribute toward the material needs of the Church according to our abilities. 1457, 2041-43</li> </ul>	<p>One John 17:21</p> <p>Holy 1 Corinthians 3:16-17</p> <p>Catholic Matthew 28:19</p> <p>Apostolic Ephesians 2:20</p>	
<p>We understand ourselves to be Catholic Christians. There are a number of different rites within the Catholic Church including Roman Catholic, Byzantine, Syro-Malabar, Maronite and Coptic. 837</p>	<p>As Catholics we respect other religions and pray for the reunion of Christian Churches throughout the world (ecumenism). 847</p>	<p>Reality of Heaven John 14:2 All God’s People John 17:21 “Christian” Acts 11:26</p>	<p>Introduce the children to the celebration of the Church Unity Week. 820, 822</p>
<p>At the end of time, the Kingdom of God will come in all its fullness. 671, 677, 680, 1042-44, 1060, 2816</p>	<p>In a world threatened by nuclear destruction and the weakening of the moral fabric of society, faith in God’s promise of the Kingdom offers us hope and peace. 1041, 1048-50, 1950, 2314, 2317, 2817-19</p>	<p>The new heavens and the new earth Revelation 21:1-5</p>	<p>Explain the season of Advent as a time to focus on our waiting for the Kingdom of God to come in its fullness.</p> <p>Encourage the children to pray an Act of Hope frequently. 1817-19, 2090, 2657</p>

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Review the Apostles' Creed (Grade 1- Page 6)

## **WORDS TO BE TAUGHT**

Bible 81, 120

Chosen People 62-63, 218

College of Bishops 857, 869

Community 752

Exodus 62, 1221

Incarnation 456, 461

Inspiration 105-07

Lector 1143, 1154

Manna 1334

Magnificat 2619, 2682

Messiah 453, 711-13

Paschal mystery 571, 654

Passover 1164

Prophet 64, 702, 2595

Psalm 2596-97

Revelation 50, 53

Vicar of Christ 882

Worship 1070, 2135

## **LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT**

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 132

Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199

Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community.  
2179, 2226

## **PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT**

Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

## **PRAYERS TO BE ENCOURAGED**

Act of Hope 2657-58

## **REVIEW PRAYERS OF THE PREVIOUS GRADES**

Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157

The Glory Be (Doxology, Grade 1 – Page 5)

Spontaneous prayer 2590, 2659-60

Stations of the Cross 1674

Morning and evening prayer 2659, 2685, 2698

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament 1380

Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

Our Father 2759

Hail Mary 2676-77

Act of Faith 2656

Sanctus (Grade 4 – Page 7) 1352

Grace at meals 2834, 2698

Act of Contrition (Grade 2 – Page 6)

Simple responses at Mass

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