



The Faith That Marks God's People

Guidelines for Catechesis

Grade Three

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 that reads "Tim. Carol. Dolan." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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.

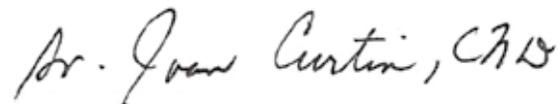
4. Throughout the Guidelines, from grades one through six, there is a developmental presentation of the major concepts.
5. On the final page of each grade level, there is a listing of vocabulary, prayers, and liturgical symbols and liturgical gestures to be taught. This page also includes the portion 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, 2nd 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.

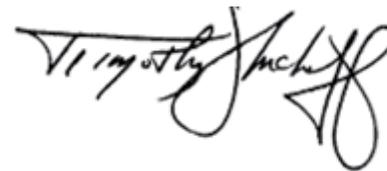
These **Guidelines** are not to be considered a substitute for the textbook. It is recommended that each parish select a single textbook series found to be in conformity with the US. Bishop's Protocol, for use in grades one through six for the school and parish programs, and that these **Guidelines** 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.

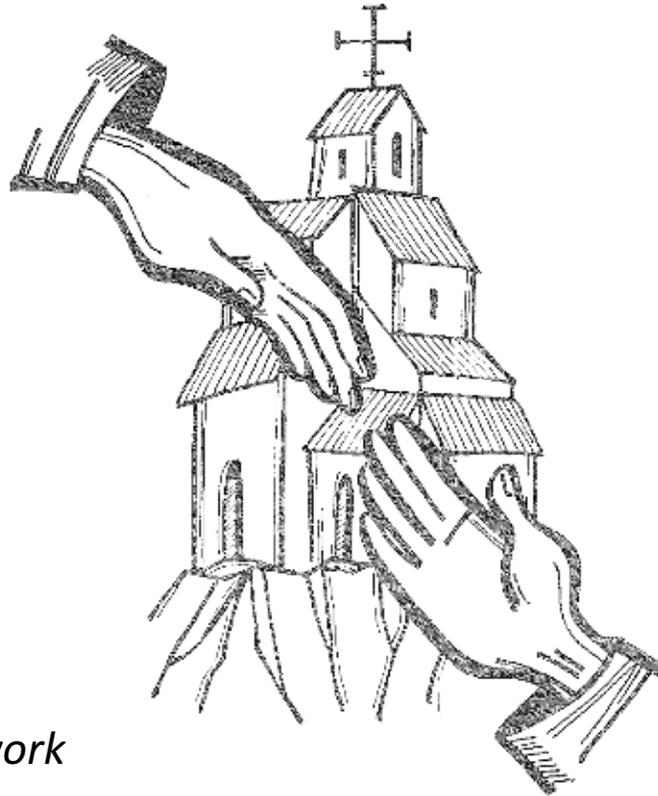


Sr. Joan Curtin, C.N.D.
Director, Catechetical Office



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

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.

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<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>

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<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: - respecting our bodies, and 362, 364 - developing our gifts and talents. 306-07</p> <p>We are to care for others by: - respecting their person, 1881, 1889, 1929 - reputation, 2475, 2477, 2479, 2507 - property and possessions. 2401, 2408-09</p> <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		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
		Christian Living		
At the Ascension, the Risen Jesus returned to his Father. 659-63	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	Ascension Mark 16:19-20	Prepare the children for the celebration of the feast of the Ascension, forty days after Easter. 659, 665-67, 670 Review with the children that part of the Apostles' Creed that pertains to Jesus' resurrection and ascension.	
On Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon his people to continue his work. 731-32, 767, 1076, 1287	It is the grace of the Holy Spirit that enables us to follow Jesus. 731-32, 735-36	Pentecost Acts of the Apostles 2:1-13	Prepare the children for the celebration of the Feast of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter. Pentecost marks the birth of the Church. 731-32	
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	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	The "Great Commission" Matthew 28:18-20	Teach the General Intercessions at Mass as a community prayer for the needs of the Church and the world. 1345, 1349	
Through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation we receive the fullness of the Spirit and become members of the Church. 1212-13, 1275, 1316, 1322 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		Christian Initiation Acts 2:36-47 Baptism Acts of the Apostles 2:38	Explain the significance of baptismal water in the Rite of Baptism. 1214-25	

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"> - through the Word of God which we hear, - through the gift of Jesus whom we receive in Holy Communion. <p>103, 864, 1212, 1346 1392, 1394, 1397, 2449</p>	<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"> - Liturgy of the Word, - Liturgy of the Eucharist. <p>1346</p>
<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"> - 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 - 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 	<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 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 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

Acknowledgments:

References obtained through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Website (uscgb.org)

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The Apostles’ Creed is taken from the Roman Missal 2010 (International Commission on English in the Liturgy)

The Glory Be is taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Website (uscgb.org)

The Protocol for Assessing the Conformity of Catechetical Materials with the Catechism of the Catholic Church was used to guide the revision process.