

PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE THIRD GRADE CATECHETICAL CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Theme: To deepen the child's understanding of the Church and to help the child experience the Church as a Christian Community

As Parents you are first to nurture a love of God in your child. You introduce and model your faith for your child. We invite you to more fully understand what this year will bring to your child as they grow in their faith through the instruction they receive. In the third grade we hope to strengthen your child's understanding of the Church and experience the Church as a Christian Community.

The curriculum guidelines have been organized to reflect the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops' directives for passing on the Faith. Included in this pamphlet is a brief outline of the various components that make up the third grade curriculum your child should be exposed to throughout this year. To find the complete curriculum guidelines for the third grade, including references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Scripture, and the *Compendium*, as well as vocabulary resources, visit <http://www.diocesefwsb.org> and look under the Office of Catechesis.

SIX TASKS OF CATECHESIS

While Christ was on earth He formed His disciples by instructing them, praying with them, showing them how to live, and by passing down His mission to them. The *National Directory for Catechesis* has outlined Six Tasks that can best shape us in our Catholic Faith. The following tasks are covered at each grade level, but the content will adjust according to the scope and sequence of that grade level.

Here is a summary of the content for the third grade:

TASK ONE: KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

- There are three persons in The Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We are all called to love in the same love and unity as the Trinity.
- Jesus chose the Church to be His continued presence on earth. The Church is the people of God, or the Body of Christ, gathered and nourished in the Eucharist.
- Through the life of the Church, God's people are led to eternal life.
- Within the Church there are many vocations. Each is meant to be a fulfillment of God's plan for each person's life and to serve the needs of the Church.
- There are four marks which describe the Catholic Church. They are One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

TASK TWO: KNOWLEDGE OF LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

- The liturgy is the celebration of the life of Christ.
- Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are sacraments that initiate us into a special relationship with Jesus.
- Baptism unites us with the life of Jesus; Confirmation strengthens us through the Holy Spirit; Eucharist feeds us with Jesus' Body and Blood.
- The Church has a liturgical year focusing on the person of Jesus Christ. The liturgical year has five seasons, Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent and Easter.

TASK THREE: MORAL FORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

- The Church teaches us how to live a moral life.
- The Greatest Commandment is to love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and the second is to love one another as we love ourselves.
- Through the life of the Church we receive God's grace. Grace is the gift of God's life in us and it will one day lead us to eternal happiness.
- Going against what Jesus taught is a sin. When we are sorry for our sins God forgives us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

TASK FOUR: TEACHES THE CHRISTIAN HOW TO PRAY WITH CHRIST

- Prayer is talking to God.
- We can pray by ourselves, with our families, or with God's people in church.
- Our minds and our hearts help us pray.

TASK FIVE: PREPARES THE CHRISTIAN TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH

- The apostles were chosen by Jesus to lead and serve His people. The bishops are successors of the apostles. Holy Orders is the Church's sacrament of anointing leaders—deacons, priests, and bishops.
- A parish is a place where a community of people gather and worship.

TASK SIX: PROMOTES A MISSIONARY SPIRIT THAT PREPARES THE FAITHFUL TO BE PRESENT AS CHRISTIANS IN SOCIETY

- After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent time preparing the apostles to continue His work.
- The Holy Spirit came to the apostles at Pentecost. This was the beginning of the Church.
- All Christians are called to continue telling others about God.

ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

IN GOD'S IMAGE

- We each reflect the Image of God. God did this so that we would love as He loved.
- Mary was called to care for and raise Christ just as our own parents are called to care for and raise us. Children are the greatest gift God can give a husband and wife.

UNDERSTANDING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH—STRUCTURE AND TRADITION

- Structure: Parish and Diocese
- Tradition: Vocation and Marks of the Church

INCULTURATION

SAINTS

Immaculate Conception
St. Mother Theodore Guerin
St. Thomas the Apostle
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. Patrick
St. Martin de Porres

NEWLY INTRODUCED SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Lectionary
Prayer Corner/Table
Statue of Mary
The Congregation/
the people of God gathered
The presider/
the priest or bishop

TRADITIONS AND DEVOTIONS

Marian Devotions
Traditional Hymns
Liturgical Prayer Service
Advent and Christmas Traditions
Lenten and Easter customs
All Souls' Day
All Saints' Day

PRAYERS

NEW PRAYERS TO BE INTRODUCED. . .

Joyful and Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary
Spontaneous prayers of Praise, Sorrow, and Petition
Simple Responses at Mass

PRAYERS THAT SHOULD BE MEMORIZED. . .

Sign of the cross
Our Father
Hail Mary
Apostles' Creed
Act of Contrition
Angel of God
Glory Be
Prayer before and after meals

VOCABULARY*

Bethlehem	Bishop
Cardinal Virtues	Charity
Communion	Communion of Saints
Community	Consecrated Life
Covenant	Disciples
Epiphany	Hell
Holy	Holy Orders
Hope	Host
Joyful Mysteries	Justice
Kingdom of God	Laity
Last Judgment	Luminous Mysteries
Marks of the Church	Mission
One	Ordained
Particular Judgment	People of God
Pope	Praise
Purgatory	Purification
Sacrament of Holy Orders	Successors
Theological Virtues	Tradition
Unity	Vestments
Virtue	

*Only the new words for this year are included in this list.