

PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE JUNIOR HIGH CATECHETICAL CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Theme: To promote knowledge of the Faith through a study of Christology.

As Parents you are the 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 Christology component of the Junior High curriculum we hope to strengthen each young person's understanding of Jesus Christ as the Second Person of the Trinity and someone with whom he or she can have a personal relationship.

The Junior High curriculum guidelines have been organized to present a systematic, organic and comprehensive catechesis. At the backbone of the curriculum are the Six Tasks of Catechesis which are presented in the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops' directives for passing on the Faith. In the Junior High Curriculum the Six Tasks of Catechesis are presented in six units. Each unit focuses on one of the Tasks. Included in this pamphlet is a brief outline of the Christology component your child should be exposed to during this year. To find the complete curriculum guidelines for Junior High, including references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Scripture, as well as vocabulary resources, visit <http://www.diocesefwsb.org> and look under the Office 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. All Six Tasks are covered at the Junior High Level. Each grade level focuses on three of the Six Tasks. Below is a summary of information introduced in the Christology component of the Junior High Curriculum:

LESSON ONE: THE TRINITY

- The Trinity is the central mystery of the faith.
- The Trinity is one God in three fully united and fully distinct Persons. The three Persons of the Trinity are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Each of the divine persons is God wholly and entirely.
- The First Person of the Trinity is God the Father. God is Father to all those baptized as His adopted sons and daughters.
- The Second Person of the Trinity is God the Son. Jesus Christ is both fully true God and true man. Jesus Christ is our Savior and Redeemer.
- The Third Person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life. The Holy Spirit is fully revealed by Jesus Christ.

LESSON TWO: SEEING WITH THE EYES OF FAITH

- God created each person to share His blessed life and is always with them everywhere they go. God desires to have a special relationship with each person.
- There is a desire and thirst for God in the heart of every human person that can only be satisfied by God. Human beings are created with free will.
- The effect of Original Sin, concupiscence, makes it more difficult to make good choices.
- Faith is a personal act of commitment to God through Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit. Faith should lead each person to desire a deeper and better understanding of God. The priceless gift of faith can be lost through carelessness or sin.
- Mary is the supreme model of faith. She trusted God would protect her as He carried out His plan in her life.

LESSON THREE: WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT TELLS US ABOUT JESUS

- The existence of God can be known through the natural world. We are able to learn and encounter God through our ability to reason and through what is revealed by the life of Jesus Christ.
- God's Revelation is necessary to teach what exceeds humans' limited understanding about religious and moral truths. The Church clarifies these truths with firm certitude.
- Much of God's Revelation has been written down in the Scriptures by human authors through God's inspiration and the rest is preserved in Tradition.
- Divine Inspiration is the gift of the Holy Spirit that enabled both the human writers and God to be true authors.
- The Bible consists of the Old Testament and New Testament.
- The Gospels occupy the central place in Scripture:
- There are three stages in the formation of the Gospels. 1) the life and teaching of Jesus, 2) the oral tradition, and 3) the written Gospels.
- Because each Gospel was written for a different audience, each Gospel focuses on a different aspect of the person of Christ. The emphasis on particular aspects of Christ creates four distinct portraits of Christ.
- Everything that Jesus taught is "Good News" for all people of every time.

LESSON FOUR: JESUS, TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN

- The Incarnation refers to the eternal Son of God taking upon Himself a complete human nature.
- Jesus was fully human. He was like us in every way except sin. He worked with a human body, thought with a human mind, acted with a human will, and loved with a human heart.
- Humans are created in the image and likeness of God. To live a fulfilled life, each person must learn and become who

they were created to be. Each person must accept their humanity and use their gifts of intellect, free will, and love to become a reflection of God.

- Jesus reveals what it means to be fully human. He teaches that by giving one's life to God and others is how one can truly be who they were created to be.
- Mary plays a key role in salvation history. God chose her to be the vessel through which Christ would come into the world.

LESSON FIVE: THE MISSION AND MESSAGE OF JESUS

- Christ came to restore the proper relationship between God and man that had been lost at the fall of Adam and Eve.
- Christ's message calls each person to live in a way that prepares him or her for the coming of the Kingdom of God. When people follow the call of God they help to build up the Kingdom of God on earth.
- Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God through His parables and the way He lived His life.
- Jesus made the Kingdom of God present through His presence on earth, His love for others, and His miracles.
- Jesus chose twelve apostles to help Him spread the Kingdom of God on earth. He calls each person to be His disciple to continue the work He began on earth.
- He gave us the two Greatest Commandments which sum up the Ten Commandments.
- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us the Beatitudes. They are at the heart of the teachings of Christ.

LESSON SIX: THE PASSION AND DEATH OF CHRIST

- The Passion and death of Jesus are all part of God's plan. Human reason cannot understand all parts of this plan. This is why God's plan for salvation is called a mystery.
- Scripture foretold the passion of Christ.
- The night before he died, Jesus celebrated the Passover with the Apostles. It was at this Last Supper that the Sacrament of the Eucharist was instituted.
- After the Last Supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. There, He freely accepted the will of the Father and freely offered Himself up for the sake of humanity.
- The Paschal Sacrifice is a sacrifice of love. It is Christ's love for humankind that leads Him to the cross. Because of His sacrifice, all people can be united with God in Heaven at the end of time.

LESSON SEVEN: JESUS CHRIST - GLORIOUS AND TRIUMPHANT

- The Resurrection is the event in which Jesus, who was truly dead, was raised from the dead. After the Resurrection he appeared to the Apostles and disciples in a glorious and resurrected body.
- The Resurrection of Christ is a mystery. Even the apostles struggled with doubts. They had seen Christ put to death with their own eyes. The story relating Thomas' doubt demonstrates the challenge to faith this event caused the apostles.
- The Resurrection fulfills the promises of the Old Testament as well as those made by Jesus in the New Testament.
- Christ's Resurrection verifies all He proclaimed. It confirms that Jesus is the Son of God, that all of His teachings are true, and that all of God's faithful will be resurrected on the last day.
- The celebration of Easter, when the Church celebrates Christ's Resurrection, is the greatest feast in the Catholic Church.
- At the Ascension, Christ's body and soul entered into heaven to remain until He comes again.
- The Ascension of Christ, both body and soul, into heaven gives the hope that one day all people, body and soul, will be united with God.

LESSON EIGHT: THE PERSON OF CHRIST

- The many titles and prophecies of Jesus Christ point to who He is and why He came to earth.
- Jesus Christ came to save all people of all time.
- Jesus is the greatest friend a person could ever have.
- Each person can deepen his or her friendship with Christ through reading Scripture, receiving the Sacraments, and praying.
- Mary stands out as the first follower of Christ. Through her intercession we can come closer to Christ.

VOCABULARY

Acts of the Apostles	Annunciation	Apostles
Ascension	Beatitudes	Concupiscence
Confirmation	Conscience	Covenant
Disciple	Divine Inspiration	Easter
Epistles	Eucharist	Evangelists
Faith	Fall, The	Free Will
Fruits of the Holy Spirit	Gifts of the Holy Spirit	God, Father
God, Holy Spirit	God, Son	Gospels
Grace	Greatest Commandments	Heaven
Historical Books	Immaculate Conception	Incarnation
Inerrancy	Isaiah	John the Baptist
Kingdom of God	Last Supper	Mary
Mary Magdalene	Meek	Mercy
Miracles	Mourn	New Testament
Old Covenant	Old Testament	Oral Tradition
Original Sin	Parables	Paschal Sacrifice
Passion	Passover	Peacemakers
Pentateuch	Pentecost	Persons of the Trinity
Poor in Spirit	Prophetic Books	Reason
Redeemer	Resurrection	Revelation
Revelation, Book of	Righteousness	Sacred Scripture
Salvation	Salvation History	Sanctifier of the Church
Savior	Sermon on the Mount	Sin
Son of God	Spiritual	Synoptic Gospels
Temptation	Ten Commandments	Tradition
Trinity	True Presence	Wisdom Books
Witness		