

# PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE FOURTH GRADE CATECHETICAL CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

**Theme:** To help the Children form their consciences according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, and to learn the basis of Christian morality taught in the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes.

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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 fourth grade we hope to strengthen your child's conscience and help him or her learn the basis of Christian morality.

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 fourth grade curriculum your child should be exposed to throughout the year. To find the complete curriculum guidelines for the fourth grade, including references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Scripture, and the *Compendium*, as well as a vocabulary resources, visit <http://www.diocesesfwsb.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 for this grade level.

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

## **TASK ONE: KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH**

- God is all good. He is the one true God. We are called to love Him.
- Because evil happened when Adam and Eve sinned, suffering and temptations are part of our lives on earth. God gives us the grace to know what is good, how to love, and avoid evil.
- God revealed Himself to us by sending His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus is the fulfillment of the covenant made by God with the community of Israel.

## **TASK TWO: KNOWLEDGE OF LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS**

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a gift to help us strengthen our relationship with God because of our inclination to sin.
- Baptism cleanses our soul of original sin.
- Receiving the Eucharist strengthens us to avoid venial and mortal sins.

## **TASK THREE: MORAL FORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST**

- God gave His Chosen People the Ten Commandments so that they could understand how to live their part of the Covenant. God's part of the Covenant is unfailing love and faithfulness. We respond to God by obeying the Ten Commandments and living out the Beatitudes.
- The Beatitudes are the heart of the teachings of Christ, and they are a source of hope.
- Virtues strengthen the moral life. A virtue is a good habit and a strong decision to do what is right.
- The Cardinal Virtues are: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.
- The Theological Virtues are: faith, hope, and charity.

## **TASK FOUR: TEACHES THE CHRISTIAN HOW TO PRAY WITH CHRIST**

- God is constantly inviting us into a special relationship with Him. We respond and grow through constantly being attentive to the life of prayer.
- Prayer is an important part of leading a moral life.
- There are five forms of prayer: Blessing /Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving and Praise.
- The Church prays the greatest prayer of thanksgiving through the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

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

- The Virgin Mary and the saints are examples of living the faith of the Church.
- Those who earnestly strive to follow God's law will be with God for all eternity in heaven.

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

- Living a moral life is very important in sharing the Gospel. To proclaim Jesus, we must also live like Him. Our actions will tell people we are followers of Christ.
- We must love and care for people in both body and spirit. We can imitate Christ through practicing the Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- We can care for the physical needs of others by practicing the Corporal Works of Mercy.

# ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

## IN GOD'S IMAGE

- Being a loving person is what will make us truly happy, even through it is sometimes hard to love.
- Sin not only offends God and hurts other people, it also hurts us. Sin lessens our ability to love, the very purpose for which God created us.

## UNDERSTANDING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH—STRUCTURE AND TRADITION

- Structure: Ordained and Religious
- Tradition: Precepts of the Church and Marks of the Church

## INCULTURATION

### SAINTS

Our Lady of Guadalupe  
St. Katherine Drexel  
St. Bernadette  
Pope Pius X  
St. Anthony de Padua  
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

### NEWLY INTRODUCED SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Fire  
Incense  
Ten Commandments

### TRADITIONS AND DEVOTIONS

Marian Devotions  
All Saints Day and Patron Saints  
Advent and Christmas Celebrations  
Lent and Easter Customs

### PRAYERS

#### NEW PRAYERS TO BE INTRODUCED. . .

Simple Responses at Mass  
Spontaneous prayers of praise, sorrow, and petition  
Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary  
Act of Faith

#### 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\*

Adoration	Adultery	Annunciation
Anointed	Apostolic	Assumption
Beatitudes	Chastity	Corporal Works of Mercy
Covet	Crucifixion	Dignity of the Human Person
Diocese	Domestic Church	Evil
False Witness	Fortitude	Glorious Mysteries
Good Friday	Gossip	Holy Father
Holy Thursday	Holy Week	Honor
Intercede	Intercession	Intercessory Prayer
Israel	Martyr	Meek
Modesty	Mourn	New Covenant
Obedience	Omission	Paschal Mystery
Patron Saints	Peacemaker	Petition
Poverty	Prayer Life	Precepts of the Church
Prudence	Religious	Reverence
Sabbath	Sacrament of Matrimony	Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance
Sacred Scripture	Sermon on the Mount	Sin of Omission
Sorrowful Mysteries	Spiritual	Spiritual Works of Mercy
Temperance	Temple of the Holy Spirit	Temptations
Thanksgiving	Vow	Witness

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