

PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE FIRST GRADE CATECHETICAL CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Theme: To develop an awareness of God who gives us life and grace, the wonders of creation and the promise of eternal life.

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 first grade we hope to strengthen your child's understanding of, and relationship with God the Creator. We also hope to strengthen your child's understanding of eternal life in heaven.

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 first grade curriculum your child should be exposed to throughout this year. To find the complete curriculum guidelines for the first grade, including references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Scripture, and the *Compendium*, as well as 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 bet 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 first grade:

TASK ONE: KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

- God is the creator of all. He created each of us to know and love Him, both here on earth and in heaven.
- God's greatest gift was His son, Jesus Christ, who is both human and divine. He shows us how to live here on earth.
- The Trinity is comprised of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- God chose Mary as the Mother of Jesus.
- God gave us angels to protect us in this life.

TASK TWO: KNOWLEDGE OF LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

- The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Through Baptism we become united with Jesus, sharing in God's life and receiving His grace.
- An understanding of the celebration of the Mass is essential to living the Catholic faith.
- The Church has a liturgical Calendar which allows us to celebrate special times in the life of Christ.

TASK THREE: MORAL FORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

- We have the ability to choose what is good or choose what is wrong.
- Jesus suffered for our sins and brought forgiveness.
- When we sin we offend God and the Church.
- Jesus taught us how to forgive.

TASK FOUR: TEACHES THE CHRISTIAN HOW TO PRAY WITH CHRIST

- Jesus teaches us to pray.
- We pray when we talk to God with our minds and hearts.
- The Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus to make us holy.
- There are prayers of petition, intercession, blessing, thanksgiving and praise.

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

- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons of the Trinity, a community of persons.
- The family plays a special part within the Church.
- The parish is a community that gathers together in a church to worship and praise God.
- The Church is the people of God gathered together as a community.

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

- Christ's work is rooted in the love of the Trinity.
- We are called share in Jesus' love and work.
- Being a Christian means sharing the Good News of Jesus.
- Missionaries are those who share the Good News of Jesus, especially to those that are poor sick and hurting.

ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

IN GOD'S IMAGE

- Being created in the Image of God means that we were all made by God our Father out of love. Every person should be loved, and loving someone means wanting to do what is right and good for another person.

UNDERSTANDING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH—STRUCTURE AND TRADITION

- The **Church** is a group of people with the same belief in Jesus. A church is also a building where people gather to pray.
- Our **Apostolic Connection** refers to Jesus sending the Holy Spirit to help the apostles begin the Church and spread the Kingdom of God on earth.

INCULTURATION

SAINTS

Blessed Mother Mary
St. Joseph
St. Francis of Assisi
St. Peter
St. Elizabeth
St. Clare of Assisi

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Altar
Ambo
Baptismal Font
Christmas Crib
Crucifix
Genuflection/Genuflect
Holy Water
Kneeling
Sanctuary
Sanctuary Light
Sign of Peace
Stations of the Cross
Statues
Tabernacle

TRADITIONS AND DEVOTIONS

Prayers of the Rosary
Traditional Hymns
Advent and Christmas celebrations
Lenten and Easter customs
All Saints Day

PRAYERS

NEW PRAYERS TO BE INTRODUCED. . .

Spontaneous prayers of Praise, Sorrow, and Petition
The Apostles Creed

PRAYERS THAT SHOULD BE MEMORIZED. . .

Sign of the cross
Our Father
Hail Mary
Prayers before and after meals
Glory Be
Angel of God

VOCABULARY

Advent	Altar	Amen
Angel	Apostles	Baptism
Baptismal Font	Bible	Blessed Trinity
Blessing	Catholic	Christian
Christmas	Church	Commandment
Consecrate	Consecration	Creation
Creator	Crucifix	Easter Sunday
Epiclesis	Eucharist	Father
Feast Day	Forgive	Genuflect
God	Godparents	Grace
Guardian angel	Heaven	Holy Family
Holy Spirit	Holy Water	Jesus
Last Supper	Lent	Liturgical Colors
Liturgical Year	Love	Mary
Mass	Missionaries	Our Father
Parish	Parish name	Pastor
Prayer	Priest	Resurrection
Rosary	Sacraments	Sacrifice
Saints	Savior	Service
Sign of the Cross	Sin	Son of God
Stations of the Cross	Worship	