

# PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE SIXTH GRADE CATECHETICAL CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

**Theme:** To understand the Old Testament as the revelation of God in the history of a people, a revelation fulfilled in the New Testament.

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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 sixth grade we hope to help your child become a conscious and active member of the Church through a greater understanding of the salvation history of God's people as it unfolds in the Old Testament.

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 sixth grade curriculum your child should be exposed to throughout the year. To find the complete curriculum guidelines for the sixth 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 sixth grade:

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

- One way that God reveals Himself to mankind is through Sacred Scripture which is inspired by the Holy Spirit with the cooperation of human writers.
- It is important to learn the story of salvation history because it is part of our story of faith in the Catholic Church.
- God created the heavens and the earth and revealed Himself in human history through the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Throughout the history of the Israelite people, God continued to love and care for them despite their failings.
- The Old Testament foretells and prefigures Jesus Christ who is the high point in salvation history.

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

- Sacred Scripture is an important part of the Sacramental life of the Church. At each Mass there are numerous readings from the Sacred Scripture as well as in each of the Sacraments.
- Many of the events in the Old Testament prefigure the Sacraments in the Church.

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

- The foundation of the moral life in the Old Testament was the Ten Commandments. In the New Testament Jesus commands each person to continue following the Ten Commandments and gives the Church the Beatitudes to guide each person's moral choices.
- Christ gave us the Church to teach and guide in the ways of holiness and life. All men and women must form their consciences from the Church's teachings.
- A virtuous life leads us to becoming like God. The moral virtues grow through education, deliberate acts, and perseverance in struggle. God's grace purifies and strengthens us.
- Each person is called to practice the virtue of chastity in their life, this includes dressing modestly and guarding our thoughts, words, attitudes and actions.

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

- God ceaselessly calls each person to a personal relationship with Him in prayer. Each person can respond to God's call by fostering a daily prayer life which includes both talking to God and listening to Him.
- Sacred Scripture is a very important part of the prayer life of the Church. Wisdom Literature, the Psalms in particular, are especially helpful for prayer. Wisdom Literature provides reflections on the virtue of wisdom which can help each person to align their thoughts with the thoughts of God.
- A person can pray by themselves in personal prayer or with a group in communal prayer such as the Mass.

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

- From the beginning of salvation history God desired for all mankind to live in community. God called the Patriarchs to faith, not just for themselves, but as part of a community.
- The Catholic Church continues the community that God called together with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

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

- The faith that was revealed to the Patriarchs is a faith for all people. Through our Baptism each person is called to share their faith with the entire world.
- The same Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets to speak God's word still inspires people today.
- We await the full realization of the Kingdom of God. Each person can work to build up the Kingdom of God by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

# ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

## IN GOD'S IMAGE

- God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are a community of love that we call the Holy Trinity.
- God created man and woman in His image. Man and woman are the highest of all creatures and are made to love and serve God.
- God made humans as man and woman. Man and woman complete and compliment each other.

## UNDERSTANDING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH—STRUCTURE AND TRADITION

- Structure: Universal Church and “particular” church
- Tradition: The Mission of the Magisterium, and the Marks of the Church

## INCULTURATION

### SAINTS

Our Lady of Fatima  
St. Jerome  
St. Francis Xavier  
St. Dominic Savio  
St. Thérèse of Lisieux  
St. Maria Goretti

### NEWLY INTRODUCED SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Sacred Scripture

### TRADITIONS AND DEVOTIONS

Marian Devotions  
Advent and Christmas celebrations  
Lenten and Easter customs  
Ordinary Time  
All Saints Day and Patron Saints  
All Souls Days  
Pentecost  
Holy Days of Obligation

### PRAYERS

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

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

#### PRAYERS THAT SHOULD BE MEMORIZED. . .

Sign of the Cross  
Our Father  
Hail Mary  
Apostles' Creed  
Act of Contrition  
The Glory Be to the Father  
Act of Faith  
Act of Hope  
Prayer before and after meals  
Angel of God  
Morning Offering  
The Angelus

# VOCABULARY\*

Advocate	Anger	Apostolic Succession	Ark of the Covenant
Assembly	Atonement	Authority	Babylonian Exile
Canaan	Canaanites	Canon	Capital Sins
Chosen People	Common Good	Communal Prayer	Compassion
Concupiscence	Decalogue	Deposit of Faith	Discriminate
Divine Providence	Divine Revelation	Ecclesiastes	Emmanuel
Envy	Exiled	Exodus	Faithfulness
Genesis	Greed	Heritage	Holy of Holies
Idolatry	Inspiration	Intemperance	Isaiah
Israelites	Jerusalem	Job	Jordan River
Joseph (son of Jacob)	Judah	Judges	Law of Love
Lector	Lord	Lust	Magisterium
Manna	Mount Sinai	Mystery	New Jerusalem
Old Covenant	Oral Tradition	Participating in Society	Patriarch
Pentateuch	Personal Prayer	Pharaoh	Philistines
Plague	Prefigure	Pride	Promised Land
Prophet	Proverbs	Racism	Rea Sea
Redeemer	Reform	Repentance	Revelation
Right to Life	Righteous	Sacred Tradition	Salvation History
Scribes	Seder	Seraphim	Sirach
Sloth	Social Justice	Song of Solomon	Steward
Superstitious	Torah	Trust	Universal Church
Unleavened	Wisdom	Wisdom Literature	Yahweh

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