

PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE PRE-SCHOOL/ KINDERGARTEN CATECHETICAL CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Theme: To introduce the child to awareness of God as creator, the Holy Family, and stories of Jesus' life.

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 Pre-School/Kindergarten 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 Pre-School/Kindergarten curriculum your child should be exposed to throughout this year. To find the complete curriculum guidelines for Pre-School/Kindergarten, 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 Pre-School/Kindergarten:

TASK ONE: KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

- God is the creator of all, who 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.
- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit together are the Blessed Trinity.
- When Jesus was born on earth His parents were Mary and Joseph.
- God gave us angels to protect us in this life.

TASK TWO: KNOWLEDGE OF LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

- The Bible teaches us about God's creation, the Chosen People, the life of Jesus, and how to do God's will.
- Jesus gives the people of the church the Sacraments to bring us God's grace and help us to love God.
- The Church has a liturgical year with liturgical colors.

TASK THREE: MORAL FORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

- Jesus teaches us what is good and how to avoid what is wrong.
- Jesus suffered for our sins and brought forgiveness.
- God has given us the Ten Commandments to teach us how to live a good 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.

TASK FOUR: TEACHES THE CHRISTIAN HOW TO PRAY WITH CHRIST

- We pray when we talk to God with our minds and hearts.
- Jesus teaches us to pray. A special prayer that He teaches us is the "Our Father."
- Prayer helps each person to be a good person.
- Mary and the saints pray for the people of the Church on earth.

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.
- Each parish has a pastor. A group of parishes are a diocese with a bishop. All of the Catholic dioceses of the world are led by the Pope.

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

- We are called share in Jesus' love and work.
- Missionaries are people who devote their lives to bringing the Gospel to places where it is not known.
- Each person can share the Good News of Jesus by being kind to our friends and family and being fair to those around us so that each person can get what they need.

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.

INCULTURATION

SAINTS

St. Gabriel
Blessed Mother Mary
St. Joseph
St. Patrick
St. Nicholas

TRADITIONS AND DEVOTIONS

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

PRAYERS

NEW PRAYERS TO BE INTRODUCED. . .

Our Father
Hail Mary
Prayers before and after meals
Glory Be
Angel of God
Spontaneous prayers of Praise, Sorrow , and Petition
The Apostles Creed

PRAYERS THAT SHOULD BE MEMORIZED. . .

Sign of the cross

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

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

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