

Parents' Guide to the First Grade Religion Curriculum

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 and his or her awareness of eternal life in heaven.

The curriculum guidelines have been organized to reflect the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the U.S. Catholic Bishop's directives for the passing of 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 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 first grade:

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.
- 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 as essential to living the Catholic faith.
- The Church has a liturgical Calendar.

Task Three: Moral Formation in Jesus Christ

- We have the ability to choose good or choose 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 and prayers of intercession.

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 spreading the Kingdom of God on earth.

Inculturation

Saints

Our Lady of Guadalupe

St. Joseph

St. Francis of Assisi

St. Peter

St. Elizabeth

St. Thèrèse of Lisieux

Traditions and Devotions

Prayers of the Rosary

Traditional Hymns

Advent celebrations

Lenten and Easter customs

Signs and Symbols

Holy Water

Baptismal Font

Sanctuary

Genuflect

Tabernacle

Crucifix

Sign of Peace

Sanctuary light

altar

Nativity Scene

Statues

Stations of the Cross

Kneeling

Ambo

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	Epiphany	nun
angels	Eucharist	Old Testament
Amen	Father	Ordinary Time
Annunciation	forgive	parish
apostles	Godparents	parish name
Ascension	Gospel Reading	pastor
Baptism	grace	peacemaker
Baptismal Font	guardian angel	Pentecost
Bible	heaven	prayer
Blessed Trinity	Holy Family	priest
blessing	Holy Spirit	reconciliation
cantor	Holy Water	Resurrection
Catholic	intercede	rosary
Christian	Last Supper	Sacraments
Christmas	Lent	sacrifice
Church	liturgical year	saints
church	Liturgy	Samaritan
commandment	Lord's Prayer	savior
creation	love	service
Creator	martyr	Sign of the Cross
Creed	Mary	sin
crucifixion	Mass	Son of God
deacon	mission	suffering
divine	missionaries	Tabernacle
Easter Sunday	New Testament	worship