

Parents' Guide to the Second Grade Religion Curriculum

Theme: To present Jesus as the model for Christian 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 second grade we hope to strengthen your child's understanding of and relationship with Jesus Christ.

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

Task One: Knowledge of the Faith

- God the Father sent us His son Jesus. Jesus came to save us from sin.
- Every person born into the world inherits original sin, except for Jesus and Mary who was conceived without sin.
- Jesus taught many ways of doing God's will. We know that the way to happiness is to imitate Jesus.
- Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with His apostles and shared the First Eucharist.
- Jesus died on the cross for us and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.
- Jesus is present in each of us through a life of grace in our souls, when we assemble together in worship, in His word from the Bible, which is proclaimed at Mass, and most especially in the Eucharist.

Task Two: Knowledge of Liturgy and Sacraments

- The liturgy is the celebration of the life of Christ. And, the Sacraments are a means to live a life of grace.
- The foundation of Christian life are the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- Jesus truly becomes present in the bread and wine through transubstantiation during the Eucharistic Prayer, through the action of the Holy Spirit.
- An understanding of the components of the Mass.
- The gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance.

Task Three: Moral Formation in Jesus Christ

- The Church teaches how to live a moral life.
- The Ten Commandments tell us how to obey the Father.
- Jesus shared with us the First and Greatest Commandment; "You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind." He added: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- God gives us each free will so that we can choose the good and follow Him.
- Our sins are forgiven through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This increases the life of grace in us.

Task Four: Teaches the Christian how to Pray with Christ

- There is a need for attention to be given to a life of prayer.
- Prayer is communication with God who loves us.
- The greatest prayer in the life of the Church is the celebration of the Eucharist.
- Jesus taught us how to pray the "Our Father."
- Prayer is blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise.

Task Five: Prepares the Christian to live in Community and to participate in the life and mission of the Church

- Jesus taught us how to live God's love by loving all people.
- When we offend God we hurt the whole People of God.
- We come together to celebrate and worship God in Church.

Task Six: Promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in Society

- We are called to be evangelizers, sharers of the Good News of Jesus, through our words and actions.
- The Church is in every part of the world.
- We are all called by God to love and serve His community whether our vocation be married, single, ordained, or as a religious brother or sister.

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. God, our Creator, made us to become like Him by sharing in His truth, goodness, and beauty through His life of grace.
- God created us out of love for us and He knows and wants what is good for us.

Understanding the Catholic Church—Structure and Tradition

- Structure: Parish
- Tradition: Liturgical Calendar

Inculturation

Saints

Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament
St. John the Baptist
St. Juan Diego
St. Anne
St. Michael the Archangel
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Traditions and Devotions

Prayers of the Rosary
May Crowning
Advent Wreath
A Christmas Nativity, or Crèche
Lenten Promise
Easter Symbols

Signs and Symbols

Stain glass windows
Easter candle
Pictures of Saints
Reconciliation room/Confessional
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Ashes
Bread
Wine
Monstrance
Chalice
Ciborium

Prayers

New Prayers to be introduced. . .

Spontaneous prayers of Praise, Sorrow, and Petition
Simple Responses at Mass

Prayers that should be memorized. . .

Sign of the Cross
Our Father
Hail Mary
Apostles' Creed
Act of Contrition
Prayers before and after meals
Glory Be
Angel of God

Vocabulary

absolution	Great Commandment
Anointing with oil	Holy Day (of obligation)
assembly	Holy Thursday
Assumption	Holy Week
Bethlehem	homily
Blessed Sacrament	host
Body of Christ	Incarnation
Canonized	Jerusalem
chalice	laity
ciborium	lector
Christ	mortal sin
confession	Nazareth
Confirmation	New Commandment
conscience	original sin
Consecration	Passover
contrition	penance
evangelize	personal sin
Examination of conscience	procession
faith	psalm
free will	Real Presence
Gentiles	Reconciliation
genuflect	reparation
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Sacrament of Eucharist
Good Friday	Sacrament of Initiation

Included in this list are only the new vocabulary words for this year.