

Parents' Guide to the Third Grade Religion Curriculum

Theme: To deepen the child's understanding of the Church and to help the child experience the Church as a Christian Community

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 third grade we hope to strengthen your child's understanding of the Church and experience the Church as a Christian Community.

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

Task One: Knowledge of the Faith

- There are three persons in The Holy Trinity: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are all called to love in the same love and unity as the Trinity.
- Jesus choose the Church to be His continued presence on earth. The Church is the people of God, or the Body of Christ, gathered and nourished in the Eucharist.
- Through the life of the Church, God's people are led to eternal life.
- Within the Church there are many vocations. Each is meant to be a fulfillment of God's plan for each person's life and to serve the needs of the Church.
- There are four marks which describe the Catholic Church. They are One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

Task Two: Knowledge of Liturgy and Sacraments

- The liturgy is the celebration of the life of Christ.
- Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are sacraments that initiate us into a special relationship with Jesus.
- Baptism unites us with the life of Jesus; Eucharist feeds us with Jesus' Body and Blood; Confirmation strengthens us through the Holy Spirit
- The Church has a liturgical year focusing on the person of Jesus Christ. The liturgical year has five seasons, Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent and Easter.

Task Three: Moral Formation in Jesus Christ

- The Church teaches us how to live a moral 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.
- Through the life of the Church we receive God's grace. Grace is the gift of God's life in us and it will one day lead us to eternal happiness.
- Going against what Jesus taught is a sin. When we are sorry for our sins God forgives us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Task Four: Teaches the Christian how to Pray with Christ

- Prayer is talking to God.
- We can pray by ourselves, with our families, or with God's people in church.
- Our minds and our hearts help us pray.

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

- The apostles were chosen by Jesus to lead and serve His people. The bishops are successors of the apostles. Holy Orders is the Church's sacrament of anointing leaders—bishops, priests, and deacons.
- A parish is a place where a community of people gather and worship.

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

- After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent time preparing the apostles to continue His work.
- The Holy Spirit come to the apostles at Pentecost. This was the beginning of the Church.
- All Christians are called to continue telling others about God.

Additional Components

In God's Image

- We each reflect the Image of God. God did this so that we would love as He loved.
- Mary was called to care for and raise Christ just as our own parents were. Children are the greatest gift God can give a husband and wife.

Understanding the Catholic Church—Structure and Tradition

- Structure: Parish and Diocese
- Tradition: Marks of the Church and Vocation

Inculturation

Saints

Immaculate Conception
St. Mother Theodore Guerin
St. Thomas the Apostle
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. Patrick
St. Martin de Porres

Traditions and Devotions

Class Liturgy
May Crowning
Advent Wreath
Epiphany Blessing
Lenten Promise
Dia de Los Muertos

Signs and Symbols

Prayer Corner
Crucifix
Statue of Mary
Reconciliation room/Confessional
Lectionary
the Congregation/
the people of God gathered
The presider/ the priest or bishop
Genuflecting
Sacred vessels
Tabernacle

Prayers

New Prayers to be introduced. . .

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

Prayers that should be memorized. . .

Sign of the Cross
Our Father
Hail Mary
Apostles' Creed
Act of Contrition
Angel of God
Glory Be
Angel of God

Vocabulary

Acts of the Apostles	Holy Father
Apostles' Creed	Holy Orders
apostolic	Immaculate Conception
Bishop	imposition of hands
Funeral Mass	Introductory Rites
generosity	Jerusalem
hell	justice
holy	Kingdom of God
ordination	Last Judgment
parables	Marks of the Church
parishioners	Messiah
Patron Saint	ministry
People of God	prophet
Pope	purgatory
Cardinal	purification
charity	Sabbath
communion	Second Coming
communion of saints	successors
community	synagogue
Concluding Rite	Temple of the Holy Spirit
consecrated life	Theological Virtues
courage	Tradition
covenant	
diocese	

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