

Parents' Guide to the Fourth Grade Religion Curriculum

Theme: To help the Children form their consciences according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, and to learn the basis of Christian morality taught in the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes.

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 fourth grade we hope to strengthen your child's conscience and help him or her learn the basis of Christian morality.

The curriculum guidelines have been organized to reflect the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the U.S. Catholic Bishop's directives for the passing on of the faith. Included in this pamphlet is a brief outline of the various components that make up the fourth grade curriculum your child should be exposed to throughout the year. To find the complete curriculum guidelines for the fourth grade, including references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Scripture, and the *Compendium*, as well as a 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 for this grade level.

Here is a summary of the content for the fourth grade:

Task One: Knowledge of the Faith

- God is all good. He is the one true God. We are called to love Him.
- Because evil happened when Adam and Eve sinned, suffering and temptations are part of life. God gives us the grace to know what is good, how to love, and avoid evil.
- God revealed Himself to us by sending His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus is the fulfillment of the covenant made by God with the community of Israel.

Task Two: Knowledge of Liturgy and Sacraments

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a gift to help us strengthen our relationship with God because of our inclination to sin.
- Baptism cleanses our soul of original sin.
- Receiving the Eucharist strengthens us to avoid venial and mortal sins.

Task Three: Moral Formation in Jesus Christ

- God gave His Chosen People the Ten Commandments so that they could understand how to live their part of the Covenant. God's part of the Covenant is unfailing love and faithfulness. We respond to God by obeying the Ten Commandments and living out the Beatitudes.
- The Beatitudes are the heart of the teachings of Christ, and they are a source of hope.
- Virtues strengthen the moral life. A virtue is a good habit and a strong decision to do what is right.
- The Cardinal Virtues are: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.
- The Theological Virtues are: faith, hope, and charity.

Task Four: Teaches the Christian how to Pray with Christ

- God is constantly inviting us into a special relationship with Him. This begins and grows through constantly being attentive to the life of prayer.
- Prayer is an important part of leading a moral life.
- There are five types of prayer: Blessing and Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving and Praise.
- The Church prays the greatest prayer of thanksgiving through the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

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

- The Virgin Mary and the saints are examples of living the faith of the Church.
- Those who earnestly strive to follow God's law will be with God for all eternity in heaven.

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

- Living a moral life is very important in sharing the Gospel. To proclaim Jesus, we must also live like Him. Our actions will tell people we are followers of Christ.
- We must love and care for people in both body and spirit. We can imitate Christ through practicing the Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- We can care for the physical needs of others by practicing the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Additional Components

In God's Image

- Being a loving person is what will make us truly happy, even through it is sometimes hard to love.
- Sin not only offends God and hurts other people, it also hurts us. Sin lessens our ability to love, the very purpose for which God created us.

Understanding the Catholic Church—Structure and Tradition

- Structure: Ordained and Religious
- Tradition: Precepts of the Church

Incultururation

Saints

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
St. Katherine Drexel
St. Bernadette
Pope Pius X
St. Anthony de Padua
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Traditions and Devotions

Patron Saint Study
Jesse Tree
Advent Wreath
Pre-Lent celebration
Lenten Promise
Pentecost: Birth of the Church

Signs and Symbols

The Ten Commandments
The Rosary
Incense
The Stations of the Cross
Fire
The Beatitudes
Symbols of the Holy Spirit
Chalice
Monstrance

Prayers

New Prayers to be introduced. . .

Spontaneous prayers of praise, sorrow, and petition
Simple Responses at Mass
Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary
Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary
Act of Faith

Prayers that should be memorized. . .

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

Vocabulary

abstinence	gossip	poverty
adultery	greed	Precepts of the Church
Beatitudes	Hallowed	prudence
Cardinal Virtues	holiness	purity
charity	honor	reverence
chastity	hope	Right to life
Chosen people	Human Dignity	sermon
chrism	idolatry	sin of omission
corporal works of mercy	initiation	social sin
covet	inspired	spiritual
dignity	Isaiah	temperance
discernment	Law of Love	temptation
Doctor of the Church	lectionary	Ten Commandments
domestic church	Matrimony	theological
envy	mEEK	Theological Virtues
evil	modesty	Triduum
false witness	Monstrance	witness
fasting	mourn	works of mercy
feast day	obedience	
fortitude	omission	
glory	Paschal Mystery	

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