

Parents' Guide to the Fifth Grade Religion Curriculum

Theme: To help the children become a conscious and active member of the Church through an appreciation and celebration of its sacramental life, and to experience and understand the Rites of the Sacraments.

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 fifth grade we hope to help your child become a conscious and active member of the Church through a greater understanding and celebration of his or her sacramental life.

The curriculum guidelines have been organized to reflect the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the U.S. Catholic Bishop's directives for passing on of the faith. Included in this pamphlet is a brief outline of the various components that make up the fifth grade curriculum your child should be exposed to throughout the year. To find the complete curriculum guidelines for the fifth grade, 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 instruction 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 fifth grade:

Task One: Knowledge of the Faith

- God is the source of all life. We participate in God's life of grace through the sacraments.
- The most important events of Christ's life began with His suffering and death for the sins of all the people on Good Friday. After three days, He rose from the dead. These events in Christ's life are called the Paschal Mystery.
- When God's people gather to celebrate the Paschal Mystery this action is called the liturgy.

Task Two: Knowledge of Liturgy and Sacraments

- The liturgy is the public work of the Church. It includes the rites and ceremonies of the Mass and Sacraments.
- In the liturgy, the Blessed Trinity is present. God the Father and Creator is praised and given adoration. Christ who died on the cross for our salvation is made present again through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- A sacrament is an outward sign of God's grace. The sacraments were instituted by Christ and are received through the life of the Church.
- There are seven sacraments that come to us through the Church. They are: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Matrimony, Holy Orders and Anointing of the sick.
- Each sacrament has its own special rite.

Task Three: Moral Formation in Jesus Christ

- Sacraments provide the grace and strength needed to confront and faithfully resolve moral dilemmas.
- Cooperating with graces of the sacraments assists in living out a moral life.
- Freedom is the ability to choose the good. These choices bring great peace and joy.
- Our conscience helps us to recognize what is right and wrong.
- Those who die in God's grace but still must undergo purification will experience purgatory so as to enter the Eternal Kingdom of God.
- A virtuous life leads us to becoming like God. The moral virtues grow through education, deliberate acts, and perseverance in struggle. God's grace purifies and strengthens us.

Task Four: Teaches the Christian how to Pray with Christ

- Every heart has desire for God. 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 a loving communication with God, leading us to live a good and holy life.
- It is important to develop a habit of prayer. Praying in the morning and evening strengthens the habit of prayer.

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

- In living our Tradition through the sacraments of the faith, the common mission of the Church is strengthened.
- The sacramental life unites us more closely to the Body of Christ.

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

- 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

- In baptism, we receive God's grace and become adopted sons and daughters of God and members of His family, the Church.
- In the Sacrament of Penance, we receive God's grace. We encounter Christ in the person of the priest and experience His forgiveness for all the times we have failed to love.
- In the Eucharist we receive God's grace in a very special way. In this sacrament we receive Christ as the nourishment of the special life God gave us when we were baptized. This nourishment enables us to love one another as Christ has loved us.
- The marriage of a baptized man and a woman is a sacrament instituted by Christ to be a sign and instrument of His love for His bride, the Church.

Understanding the Catholic Church—Structure and Tradition

- Structure: Universal Church
- Tradition: Apostolic Tradition

Inculturation

Saints

Our Lady of Czestochowa
St. Joan of Arc
St. Thomas the Apostle
St. Dismas
St. Jude
St. Mother Theodore Guerin

Traditions and Devotions

Signs and Symbols of Advent in the arts
Advent Wreath
Stations of the Cross
Lenten Spiritual Exercise
Easter Basket Blessing
Holy Days of Obligation

Signs and Symbols

Baptism: garment, candle, water
Confirmation: chrism, imposition of hands
Matrimony: rings of marriage
Healing: oil, prayers
Eucharist: host, chalice, wine
Holy Orders: chrism

Prayers

New Prayers to be introduced. . .

Mass Responses
Spontaneous prayer of Praise, Sorrow, and Petition
Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary
Luminous 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
Act of Faith

Act of Hope
Morning Offering
The Angelus

Vocabulary

almsgiving	penitent
Anointing of the Sick	Penitential Rite
Anointing with oil	permanent
Catechumen	personal sin
Christian Initiation	priesthood
commitment	Profession of Faith
Communal Reconciliation	RCIA
conversion	reconcile
fidelity	redemptive suffering
Gift of the Holy Spirit	Religious Orders
Holy Orders	rings in marriage
imposition of hands	Rite
Individual Reconciliation	sacramentals
indulgence	salvation
Liturgy of the Hours	sanctifying grace
Luminous Mysteries	Theological Virtues
minister	transitional
obligation	water
ordained	

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