



Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Archdiocese of Washington Religion Curriculum Guide

Parent Guide: Grade 1

The Archdiocese of Washington employs a common religion curriculum for students throughout its parishes and schools called *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*. This curriculum identifies what each child should be able to know, understand and do at each grade level. Based on the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the curriculum contains six key elements and fourteen standards or areas of learning. The chart below outlines the curriculum structure.

| Catechism Pillars | Key Elements/Tasks of Catechesis | Curriculum Standards |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| I. Creed- Profession of Faith | Promote Knowledge of Faith (1) | Creed (1) |
| | | Scripture (2) |
| II. Celebration of Christian Mystery | Liturgical Education (2) | Sacraments (3) |
| | | Liturgy (4) |
| III. Life in Christ | Moral Formation in Christ (3) | Conscience (5) |
| | | Christian Living (6) |
| IV. Christian Prayer | Teaching to Pray in Christ (4) | Prayer (7) |
| | | Christian Living* |
| | Education for Community Life (5) | Catholic Church (8) |
| | | Ecumenism (9) |
| | | Catholic Relationships (10) |
| | | Vocation (11) |
| Christian Living* | Missionary Initiative (6) | Catholic Social Teaching (12) |
| | | Inter-religious Dialogue (13) |
| | | Missionary Vocation (14) |

*While Christian Living is not a pillar of the Catechism, it flows from the Creedal statements of the preceding pillars.

Each standard consists of learning indicators or objectives that convey the age appropriate knowledge, skills and behaviors that students will learn. These indicators give focus to instruction and guide the use of texts and resources.

Below is a snapshot of the focus of each standard, followed by an example of a specific indicator for that standard.

1. CREED: Among other statements of faith expressed in the Creed, students will state the belief that there are three Persons in one God: the Holy Trinity. They will identify the roles of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Students will describe the meaning of faith as a gift that helps them to follow God.

- *Identify God the Holy Spirit as God's Spirit alive in us and in the Church.*

2. SACRED SCRIPTURE: Students will describe the Bible as a special book that tells them who God is and how He loves them. They will recognize that the Gospels tell about the Good News of Jesus Christ. Students will identify that key moments from Jesus's life are his death, resurrection, and ascension.

- *Describe Jesus' Resurrection from the dead and appearances to his friends. (Mt 28, Mk 16, Lk 24, Jn 20-21)*

3. SACRAMENTS: Students will identify sacraments as signs of God's love for them given to the Church by Jesus. They will describe the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, and the Eucharist.

- *Exhibit basic recognition of the Sacrament of the Eucharist as a sign of Jesus sharing Himself with us during the Mass.*

4. LITURGY: Students will describe the Mass as a time when God is present to them in His Word and in the Eucharist. They will state that Christ is present in those assembled at Mass and identify the colors and seasons of the Church year.

- *Identify when the priest speaks the words of Jesus at the Last Supper as the time that we recognize Jesus' presence with us in the bread and wine that become his Body and Blood.*

5. CONSCIENCE: Students will state that God created them to do what is good and right. They will identify that the Holy Spirit helps them to do what is good. Students will understand that God gives them the ability to choose right or wrong and that sin is choosing to turn away from God.

- *Identify that we live good lives with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

6. CHRISTIAN LIVING: Students will state that the two great commandments are to love God and love their neighbor. They will also illustrate ways in which they can live out these two commandments. Students will understand that all people including their own self are meant to be respected and loved. They will realize that they should stand up for others by telling an adult when they see someone being harmed or disrespected.

- *Recall that when other children are doing something that harms us, themselves or others, such as bullying, we should ask them to stop or ask parents/teachers to help.*

7. PRAYER: Students will recognize that prayer involves listening to God, talking to God, and coming into His presence. They will memorize and recite the Sign of the Cross, the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be.

- *Recognize that asking God for his help is called a prayer of petition.*

8. CHURCH: Students will show understanding that the Church is God's special family started by Jesus whereas a "church" is a special place people go to worship, thank, and praise God. They will realize that the Church is a very important way through which they learn about God.

- *Retell stories to show that the Church has many holy people some of whom are called saints.*

9. ECUMENISM: Students will understand that Jesus founded the Catholic Church so that all people might be one. They will recognize that they should continue to pray for that unity. Students

will realize that other Christians believe in Jesus and in Baptism but do not share the fullness of all that Jesus taught us.

- *Understand that other Christians share a common baptism and belief in Jesus even though they do not share everything that Jesus taught us.*

10. CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Students will discuss that all people are created in God's image and that they should treat others as Jesus would. They will provide examples of how they can love and respect their family.

- *Show how we love and respect our family.*

11. VOCATION: Students will explain that there are a variety of ways in which they can lovingly respond to God's call. They will also describe the vocations to marriage and the priesthood.

- *Identify the priest as an ordained minister of the Church who has a special role of leading people in prayer.*

12. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Students will state that human beings have the responsibility to care for all of God's creation and can do so by following the example of Jesus.

- *Recognize that God has entrusted to all human beings responsibility for the world and all its creatures.*

13. INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: Students will understand that God loves and cares for all people regardless of race, culture, or stage of life. They will also identify that Jesus was part of the Jewish faith tradition.

- *State that Jesus was a Jew who lived and carried out his mission within the Jewish culture and tradition.*

14. MISSIONARY VOCATION: Students will understand that they should use their gifts to share their story of faith in Jesus with others.

- *Tell that God created each person to love him and to love others.*