



Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Archdiocese of Washington Religion Curriculum Guide

Parent Guide: Grade 3

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 identify the Holy Trinity, Jesus's role as Savior, and the action of the Holy Spirit. They will understand that God wants them to be accountable for their actions but will also provide forgiveness if they have sinned.

- *Exhibit how God wants our love as a response to his love.*

2. SACRED SCRIPTURE: Students will identify the Bible as a collection of sacred books, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that reveal God's Word. They will name the two main parts of the Bible as the Old Testament and New Testament and identify key stories from these two parts.

- *Identify Abraham as the father of our faith in God.*

3. SACRAMENTS: Students will describe the sacraments as gifts given to us by Jesus that help us to grow in our love and likeness of Him. They will identify and describe the Sacraments of Healing and the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.

- *Describe examples of adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass.*

4. LITURGY: Students will define liturgy as a celebration of Christ's saving work and an opportunity to give God thanks and praise. They will explain the major seasons of the liturgical year and identify the symbols of the Eucharist as consecrated bread and wine.

- *Define liturgy as the celebration of the work of Christ to accomplish our salvation through his life, death, and resurrection so that the assembly gives praise and thanks to God the Father in Jesus and through the Holy Spirit.*

5. CONSCIENCE: Students will understand that morality refers to their actions being either good or bad. They will explain that Jesus summarizes all of the commandments in His law of love which will lead to morally good actions.

- *Explain that Jesus sums up the commandments for us in his law of love.*

6. CHRISTIAN LIVING: Students will understand that God created them as naturally good and destined for union with Him. They will illustrate that love of neighbor involves speaking up for one's self and others. Students will define virtue and understand how virtue leads to living a just life and being a responsible steward of God's creation.

- *Explain that whatever we do for people in need, we do for Jesus.*

7. PRAYER: Students will understand that God hears and answers their prayers. They will differentiate between private and public prayer, identify different types of prayer, and recognize that the Bible is a special aid to their prayer life.

- *Explain that listening to God's word in Scripture is a privileged way God speaks to us today.*

8. CHURCH: Students will state that Jesus established the Church, also known as The Body of Christ. They will identify that the Pope is the successor to St. Peter and that the bishops are the successors to the Apostles. Students will also identify that our Church community consists of clergy, religious, and lay people.

- *Recognize the faith community as a way of coming to know God.*

9. ECUMENISM: Students will demonstrate awareness that they should respect all faith traditions because God loves all people. They will also state that this respect does not deny the fullness of faith found in the Catholic Church.

- *State that our respect for other Christians and faiths does not mean we deny that the fullness of the faith Christ taught is found in the Catholic Church.*

10. CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Students will recognize that all life is a gift from God which must be respected. They will be aware that the Ten Commandments and Jesus's law of love guide them in their relationships with others.

- *Compare the law of love to the Ten Commandments.*

11. VOCATION: Students will describe a vocation as a calling given to them by God to serve others. They will understand that Jesus calls all people to a vocation of discipleship which can take place in a variety of ways: marriage, priesthood, religious life, or single life.

- *Show understanding that parents have a vocation to serve God and the Church by helping their children to grow close to God.*

12. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Students will state that they show love for God when they consider and care for the needs of others. They will recognize that the Beatitudes help to display love towards God and others.

- *Explain how we show acts of love and kindness to others and to all God's creation.*

13. INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: Students will understand that they respect people of all faiths because God loves all people. They will state that Catholics are called to protect the freedom of all people to practice their faith.

- *Identify Judaism as Jesus' faith.*

14. MISSIONARY VOCATION: Students will realize that every Catholic is called to evangelize others through word and deed while displaying a missionary spirit. They will recognize that Jesus gave them the Catholic Church which supports them in these efforts.

- *Understand that we need to bear witness to our Catholic faith in our community and society.*