



Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Archdiocese of Washington Religion Curriculum Guide

Parent Guide: Grade 4

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 name God as Trinity and describe that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. They will understand that God is faithful to His promises and that He reveals Himself through Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture.

- *State the meaning and sources of revelation: Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture, as entrusted to the teaching office of the Church.*

2. SACRED SCRIPTURE: Students will describe the meaning of covenant in the story of Abraham and explain that God's promise was passed on to Abraham's descendants. They will

identify Moses as a great leader and prophet who heard God's command to save the people of Israel and deliver God's law to them.

- *Describe the journey of the Israelites in the desert and God's leading them with care and love as their Redeemer.*

3. SACRAMENTS: Students will understand that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. They will also identify and name sacramental signs.

- *Demonstrate understanding that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.*

4. LITURGY: Students will identify and describe the days of the Triduum and their meaning. They will identify other holy days of the Church calendar and understand that Mass attendance is required on these days. Students will also understand the role of intercessions during the Mass and participate in creating prayers of intercession.

- *Identify the holy days of the church calendar and deduce that these are days of required attendance at Mass.*

5. CONSCIENCE: Students will identify that God gives us the gifts of freedom and conscience which can be put to proper use through the aid of the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the Theological Virtues. They will understand that both the Holy Spirit and the Church help them to choose what is right. Students will understand that despite these aids, they can still choose to turn away from God which is known as sin.

- *Understand that sin is choosing to turn away from God, which harms our relationship with God, ourselves and others.*

6. CHRISTIAN LIVING: Students will identify that the dignity of the human person is the most important social teaching of the Church. They will understand that this dignity makes them all members of the human family. They will know that dignity can be protected through participation in the sacraments and living out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

- *Recall that the sacraments, especially Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist, help us to love and forgive others.*

7. PRAYER: Students will recognize that prayer, especially the Rosary, can help them imitate the life of Jesus. They will identify different types of prayer such as blessing, petition, and thanksgiving while explaining the difference between meditation and contemplation.

- *Indicate that Christians forgive those who hurt them and pray for everyone, the living and the dead.*

8. CHURCH: Students will identify that the Church is an assembly of people, often called the People of God. They will recognize the hierarchy within the Church and name the Pope as its leader on earth.

- *Recognize that the Church is hierarchical*

9. ECUMENISM: Students will understand that Jesus founded the Church so that all people would be united as one and believe in Him. They will recognize that their respect for other Christian churches does not mean that they should deny the fullness of the faith found in the Catholic Church.

- *Understand that there are many Christians who are baptized and have a common belief in God but do not share the same understanding of the role of the Pope as the successor of St. Peter.*

10. CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Students will describe the nature of a healthy relationship with God, others, and self. They will understand that participating in their family and parish supports them in living a Christian way of life. Finally, they will define human sexuality as being a gift from God.

- *Understand that participation in family and parish communities gives us support for living the Christian way of life.*

11. VOCATION: Students will understand that through Baptism all people are called to a life of discipleship and service. They will identify different vocations in the Church and understand that each one can lead them to holiness. Students will recognize that Jesus provides the example of Christian life and love.

- *Articulate how vocations are ways to holiness in life.*

12. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Students will recognize that they each have a responsibility for stewardship of God's creation. They will also understand that the Church cares for those in need and works to build a better world.

- *Describe examples of how the Church cares for those in need and works to build a better world.*

13. INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: Students will identify Jesus within the Jewish tradition. They will understand that Christians also receive the blessings of the covenant that God made with the Jewish people.

- *Recognize the psalms as the prayers of Jewish and Christian people.*

14. MISSIONARY VOCATION: Students will realize that Jesus calls all who follow him to make disciples of others through evangelization. They will also understand how disciples of Jesus can best imitate Him.

- *Define evangelization as proclaiming Christ and his Gospel by word and the testimony of life, in fulfillment of his command to go make disciples.*