



Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Archdiocese of Washington Religion Curriculum Guide

Parent Guide: Grade 6

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 describe God as the creator of the universe and humanity, who gifted humans with the power of free will. They will state that God continues to love and communicate with people despite humanity's sinfulness. Students will explain that though God desires all people to be in union with Him, the possibility of hell or eternal separation from God is still a reality.

- *State that in his mercy God loves and cares for humankind regardless of our sinfulness.*

2. SACRED SCRIPTURE: Students will trace the unfolding of God's revelation through the history of the chosen people of Israel in the Old Testament. They will demonstrate familiarity with the stories of the patriarchs, the events of the Exodus, and the roles of the judges and kings. They

will understand that God made covenants with the people of Israel as a sign of His faithfulness. Students will recognize Jesus, as the Messiah, is the fulfillment of those covenants.

- *Show familiarity with the Beatitudes as expressed in the Sermon on the Mount.*

3. SACRAMENTS: Students will describe sacraments as efficacious signs of God's grace that Christ instituted and entrusted to the Church to accompany a person throughout their life. Special emphasis is given to the Sacraments at the Service of Communion as well as those sacraments with an indelible or permanent character.

- *Identify Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders as the sacraments that impart an indelible character.*

4. LITURGY: Students will identify the function of ordained and non-ordained ministers at Mass while stating ways in which the laity can minister to others. They will recognize how the Mass provides nourishment to us through the Word of God and through the Eucharist. Finally, students will be able to name the holy days of obligation in the United States.

- *Realize that the readings at Mass reflect the liturgical calendar and are universal.*

5. CONSCIENCE: Students will understand that Christ helps them to overcome the power of Original Sin in order to live as a Christian. They will relate living a Christ-like life with keeping the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes.

- *Explain that the theological virtues inform moral activity and help Christians to live in relationship with the Holy Trinity.*

6. CHRISTIAN LIVING: Students will understand that they are called to follow Christ through an active discipleship. They will recognize that they have a responsibility to work for the common good, speak out against injustice, and ensure that human dignity is respected.

- *Show understanding that the fruits of the Holy Spirit, purity of heart and chastity, help us to respect others.*

7. PRAYER: Students will identify different types of prayer (adoration praise, thanksgiving, petition, and intercession) and methods of prayer specifically the Mysteries of the Rosary and meditation with Scripture. They will recognize that the Eucharistic liturgy is the Church's central act of worship and that regular participation in prayer deepens their covenantal relationship with God.

- *Recognize that Mary's humility and faith in cooperating with the Holy Spirit make her a model for prayer.*

8. CHURCH: Students will realize that the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, continues Christ's saving work especially through the evangelization of others. They will discuss the bonds of unity within the Church in particular the role of the Pope. Together, the Pope and bishops, form the Magisterium to direct the Church in matters of faith and morals.

- *Show understanding of the Church's visible bonds of unity: one origin, one baptism, and an unbroken line of apostolic succession beginning with Peter.*

9. ECUMENISM: Students will understand that our friendship with other Christians involves recognizing those things we share in common and being honest about our differences. They will also identify that the work for unity in the Church is grounded in Jesus's prayer at the Last Supper: that all his disciples might be one.

- *Define ecumenism as the work for restoration of unity among all Christians.*

10. CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Students will identify that they are made in the image and likeness of God. They will recognize that human sexuality is a gift from God that finds its proper expression in marriage between a man and a woman. Students will understand that the virtues of chastity and modesty help them to respect others.

- *Identify sexuality as the means by which a man and a woman give themselves entirely, body and soul, to one another in the fidelity of marriage.*

11. VOCATION: Students will understand that a vocation is a call from God that invites each person to Christian discipleship. They will describe the importance of the vocations of marriage and priesthood to the life of the Church.

- *Show understanding that God calls us to love and serve others in whatever vocation we live.*

12. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Students will explain that God desires freedom for all people and that the Kingdom of Heaven is brought about when all people work for justice and peace. They will identify that sin can harm and even destroy aspects of God's creation.

- *Identify that sin can destroy our relationship with God, with our neighbor, and with God's creation.*

13. INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: Students will characterize Judaism, Islam, and Christianity as monotheistic religions. They will identify the Torah as the sacred scriptures of the Jewish people and the Qu'ran as the sacred scriptures of Muslims.

- *Recognize that the Torah is the Law of God for the Jewish people.*

14. MISSIONARY VOCATION: Students will illustrate that individuals as well as society are called to continual conversion in light of Jesus's teachings. They will state that this call to holiness is also linked to the call to mission.

- *State that we receive the universal call to holiness and to mission in our baptism.*