



Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Archdiocese of Washington Religion Curriculum Guide

Parent Guide: Kindergarten

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 statement 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 that God created them to know, love, and serve Him. They will identify that Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Mary. Students will describe the meaning of faith and recognize that the Holy Spirit lives in them.

- *Describe faith as believing in God even though we cannot see him.*

2. SACRED SCRIPTURE: Students will identify important people in the Old Testament such as Noah, Abraham and Sarah, and Moses. They will state that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph make up the Holy Family and that Jesus was supported and cared for as He grew. Students will understand that Jesus loved all people even those who put Him to death.

- *Retell the Resurrection story.*

3. SACRAMENTS: Students will identify a sacrament as a sign of God's love for them. They will identify the meaning of Baptism and the importance of the bread and wine at Mass.

- *Identify the bread and wine at Mass as signs of God's presence with us.*

4. LITURGY: Students will identify the meaning of Good Friday and Easter. They will explain that the priest is chosen by God to lead them in prayer at Mass. Students will also recognize the importance of sacramentals such as the crucifix, holy water, and the rosary.

- *Identify the priest as someone chosen by God to lead us in prayer at Mass.*

5. CONSCIENCE: Students will describe loving actions performed by Jesus and provide examples of loving actions that they can perform. They will also recognize that rules teach them how to act at home, school, and in the community. Students will know that God will forgive them when they express that they are sorry.

- *State awareness that God forgives when people are sorry.*

6. CHRISTIAN LIVING: Students will describe ways that they can love God and love their neighbor. They will demonstrate the ability to express sorrow if they have hurt others and express forgiveness if others hurt them.

- *Understand that how we treat others and the things of creation is how we show that we are followers of Jesus.*

7. PRAYER: Students will recognize that they pray to God as a way to help others and themselves. They will understand that they can pray alone or with others and that the church is a special place to pray. Students will memorize and recite the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be.

- *Recognize that we can pray to God to help ourselves and others, and that this is a prayer of petition.*

8. CHURCH: Students will state that Jesus gave the Church as a sign of His presence in the world and that they belong to the Church because of their baptism.

- *Give examples of saints who loved God and others very much.*

9. ECUMENISM: Students will recognize other people may believe in Jesus Christ but worship in other Christian communities.

- *State that some of our relatives, playmates, and neighbors may worship in other Christian communities (denominations) that believe in Jesus Christ.*

10. CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Students will know that followers of Jesus show respect for all life. They will identify that babies are gifts from God.

- *Know that followers of Jesus show Respect for Life.*

11. VOCATION: Students will state that God calls them to love and serve Him. They will state that God has special people (priests, religious, brothers, sisters, and missionaries) that help teach others about Him.

- *State that the Church has special people who help us to learn about God and to live as followers of Jesus: specifically, priests, religious brothers and sisters, missionaries (lay and religious).*

12. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Students will recognize that all creation is a gift from God and is in need of their care. They will know that they should show respect and kindness to all people since everyone is made in God's image and likeness.

- *Give examples of how we show our love of our family by helping at home.*

13. INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: Students will understand that some people, including people that they may know, worship God but are not Catholic or Christian.

- *Know that not everyone is a Catholic, and that some of our relatives, playmates, and neighbors may know about God in other ways.*

14. MISSIONARY VOCATION: Students will understand that as followers of Jesus they should share their story and their love of Him with all that they meet.

- *Explain that Jesus asks us to share the story of his love for all, our friendship with him, and our love of his Church with those we meet. (Mt 28:19-20)*