



# *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*

## Archdiocese of Washington Religion Curriculum Guide

### Parent Guide: Pre-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 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 know that God is the Holy Trinity and express this teaching through the Sign of the Cross. They will state that God made all of creation good. Students will state that Jesus is the Son of God who died on the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven.

- *Retell stories about important moments in the life of Christ.*

2. SACRED SCRIPTURE: Students will state that the Bible is a very special book of the Church that tells them about God and His Son, Jesus. They will identify that Adam and Eve are the first two people that God created.

- *Identify the Bible as the book that contains the four Gospels – important books where we learn about Jesus.*

3. SACRAMENTS: Students will show understanding that sacraments are signs of God's love for all people and that Baptism makes them children of God.

- *Learn about Baptism as the sacrament through which we become children of God and members of the family of the Church.*

4. LITURGY: Students will identify Sunday as a special day when they go to church and pray as a family. They will also identify Christmas and Easter as celebrations during the Church year.

- *Celebrate Christmas as the birthday of Jesus.*

5. CONSCIENCE: Students will identify Jesus's loving actions and imitate them.

- *Identify visual representations of Jesus' loving actions.*

6. CHRISTIAN LIVING: Students will learn that they rely on God's grace to help them know right from wrong. They will also know that it is important to be fair and just like Jesus.

- *Know that it is important to be fair and just because that is how Jesus has taught us to be to one another.*

7. PRAYER: Students will describe prayer as a way of talking to God and showing their love for Him. They will understand that Jesus helps them to pray. Students will recite the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be.

- *Show respect for the names of God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit, in speech and when using these names in prayer.*

8. CHURCH: Students will identify that the Church is a special community of faith that worships God. They will identify the saints as special friends of God and the angels as spirits that are God's messengers.

- *Identify that the angels are spirits who have been created by God to be his messengers, and that God has given each of us a Guardian Angel to watch over and protect us.*

9. ECUMENISM: Students will understand that Jesus founded the Catholic Church and prayed that all people would be one.

- *Understand that Jesus founded the Catholic Church and prayed that we might all be one (Jn 17:20-23).*

10. CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Students will recognize that they should love their neighbors because Jesus taught them to care for all people.

- *State that Jesus taught us to care for other people.*

11. VOCATION: Students will know that priests serve God in a special way.

- *Know that priests serve God in a special way.*

12. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Students will recognize that all creation needs care and that Jesus showed concern for all people especially people in need.

- *Recognize that our individual differences are gifts from God.*

13. INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: Students will understand that they are part of the Catholic Church, founded by Jesus.

- *Understand that you belong to the Catholic Church founded by Jesus.*

14. MISSIONARY VOCATION: Students will realize that Jesus asks them to share the Good News of His love with their family, friends, and neighbors.

- *Recognize that Jesus wants us to help our family and friends.*