



Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Archdiocese of Washington Religion Curriculum Guide

Parent Guide: Grade 5

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 revelation of the Trinity at Jesus's baptism and understand that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man. Special emphasis is given to recognizing and defining the Immaculate Conception as referring to Mary.

- *Recognize Mary as the Immaculate Conception, which means that from the first moment of her conception, she was preserved immune from Original Sin.*

2. SACRED SCRIPTURE: Students will understand the meaning of the terms *gospel* and *evangelist* while identifying the four writers of the Gospels as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Using the Gospel according to Mark, students will explore key events, people, and teachings from the life of Jesus including the Last Supper, his Transfiguration and the Paschal Mystery.

- *Define the Paschal Mystery as Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection for our salvation.*

3. SACRAMENTS: Students will describe sacraments as outward signs of grace instituted by Christ and given to the Church to strengthen it in holiness. They will identify the symbols of the Sacraments of Initiation and describe the Sacraments of Matrimony, Holy Orders, Penance, and Anointing of the Sick.

- *Describe the Sacrament of Marriage as a grace-filled covenant between one man and one woman.*

4. LITURGY: Students will explain that liturgy is the public prayer of God's people through which the Holy Spirit draws them into God's love. They will be able to explain the liturgical seasons of the Church.

- *Explain that when we celebrate the liturgy (Mass, Sacraments, Liturgy of the Hours), the Holy Spirit draws us into God's love and we are made holy.*

5. CONSCIENCE: Students will explain the concepts of morality and virtue with an added focus on the Theological and Cardinal Virtues. They will identify the roles that stewardship, conscience, and the Beatitudes play in shaping moral goodness and bringing about the Kingdom of God.

- *Explain that when we live the Beatitudes, we are helping to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth.*

6. CHRISTIAN LIVING: Students will acknowledge that all people are created by God and have human dignity. They will recognize that from the moment of conception, a unique and unrepeatable human being is created by God. They will illustrate that because of this human dignity they are called to stewardship and outreach to build a more just and peaceful world.

- *Acknowledge that all people are created by God and that we must respect the human dignity of every person no matter how different they are from us.*

7. PRAYER: Students will recognize several ways in which daily prayer strengthens their relationship with God. They will practice different styles of prayer such as spontaneous prayer, memorized prayer, and the Rosary. Students will understand that the prayer of the Mass celebrates the saving power of Jesus's passion, death, and resurrection.

- *Understand that faithfulness to prayer and worship leads to the grace to lead a moral life.*

8. CHURCH: Students will understand that Christ established the Church as the People of God called together by the Holy Spirit. The Church communicates grace and truth to all mankind. The Church has a hierarchical structure and the Pope, who traces his authority back to St. Peter, speaks in the name of the Church to both its members and to the world.

- *Articulate that the Catholic Church has a structure called a hierarchy, given by Christ.*

9. ECUMENISM: Students will explain that Jesus named Peter as the rock upon which the Church would be built and that the Pope, as the successor to St. Peter, is the current leader of the Church. Other Christians, such as the Eastern Orthodox churches, are similar to the Catholic Church, but they do not recognize the Pope as their leader. Catholics are called to show respect to other Christians.

- *Understand that Catholics are to work and pray for unity in the Church in response to Jesus' desire "that they all may be one". (Jn 17:20-23)*

10. CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Students will understand that God creates all humans with both a body and soul. As such, all human life is sacred from its beginning at conception until its natural end at death. Students will explain that the gift of modesty displays respect for one's own body and the body of others.

- *Explain how modesty demonstrates respect for one's body and the bodies of others.*

11. VOCATION: Students will understand that through Baptism all people are called to a life of discipleship and service. They will identify that this life of service can take place through single life, married life, or the priesthood and religious life.

- *Understand that through Baptism, all followers of Jesus are called to the ministry of service.*

12. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Students will explain that all human life is sacred and that they must protect that sacredness by working for a fair and just society. They will define stewardship as the responsibility to care for all of God's creation.

- *Identify that the Church teaches that we must work for a more just and fair society and world.*

13. INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: Students will understand that there are many religions but only one God. They will identify that both the Jewish people and Muslims trace their roots back to Abraham.

- *Identify Judaism as the religion of God's covenant with Abraham.*

14. MISSIONARY VOCATION: Students will understand that the Catholic Church is entrusted with the mission of Jesus and that through evangelization they can share what they have learned about Jesus with others. All disciples of Jesus are called to evangelize and work to bring about justice and peace.

- *Realize that disciples of Jesus are called to change and reform their lives in light of the teachings of Jesus.*