

PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE SIXTH GRADE CATECHETICAL CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Theme: To understand the Old Testament as the revelation of God in the history of a people, a revelation fulfilled in the New Testament.

As parents you are the first to nurture a love of God in your child. You introduce and model your faith for your child. We invite you to more fully understand what this year will bring to your child as they grow in their faith through the instruction they receive. In the sixth grade we hope to help your child become a conscious and active member of the Church through a greater understanding of the salvation history of God's people as it unfolds in the Old Testament.

The curriculum guidelines have been organized to reflect the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops' directives for passing on the Faith. Included in this pamphlet is a brief outline of the various components that make up the sixth grade curriculum your child should be exposed to throughout the year. To find the complete curriculum guidelines for the sixth grade, including references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Scripture, and the *Compendium*, as well as vocabulary resources, visit <http://www.diocesefwsb.org> and look under the Office of Catechesis.

SIX TASKS OF CATECHESIS

While Christ was on earth He formed His disciples by instructing them, praying with them, showing them how to live, and by passing down His mission to them. The *National Directory for Catechesis* has outlined Six Tasks that can best shape us in our Catholic Faith. The following tasks are covered at each grade level, but the content will adjust according to the scope and sequence of that grade level.

Here is a summary of the content for the sixth grade:

TASK ONE: KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

- One way that God reveals Himself to mankind is through Sacred Scripture which is inspired by the Holy Spirit with the cooperation of human writers.
- It is important to learn the story of salvation history because it is part of our story of faith in the Catholic Church.
- God created the heavens and the earth and revealed Himself in human history through the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Throughout the history of the Israelite people, God continued to love and care for them despite their failings.
- The Old Testament foretells and prefigures Jesus Christ who is the high point in salvation history.

TASK TWO: KNOWLEDGE OF LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

- Sacred Scripture is an important part of the Sacramental life of the Church. At each Mass there are numerous readings from the Sacred Scripture as well as in each of the Sacraments.
- Many of the events in the Old Testament prefigure the Sacraments in the Church.

TASK THREE: MORAL FORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

- The foundation of the moral life in the Old Testament was the Ten Commandments. In the New Testament Jesus commands each person to continue following the Ten Commandments and gives the Church the Beatitudes to guide each person's moral choices.
- Christ gave us the Church to teach and guide in the ways of holiness and life. All men and women must form their consciences from the Church's teachings.
- A virtuous life leads us to becoming like God. The moral virtues grow through education, deliberate acts, and perseverance in struggle. God's grace purifies and strengthens us.
- Each person is called to practice the virtue of chastity in their life, this includes dressing modestly and guarding our thoughts, words, attitudes and actions.

TASK FOUR: TEACHES THE CHRISTIAN HOW TO PRAY WITH CHRIST

- God ceaselessly calls each person to a personal relationship with Him in prayer. Each person can respond to God's call by fostering a daily prayer life which includes both talking to God and listening to Him.
- Sacred Scripture is a very important part of the prayer life of the Church. Wisdom Literature, the Psalms in particular, are especially helpful for prayer. Wisdom Literature provides reflections on the virtue of wisdom which can help each person to align their thoughts with the thoughts of God.
- A person can pray by themselves in personal prayer or with a group in communal prayer such as the Mass.

TASK FIVE: PREPARES THE CHRISTIAN TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH

- From the beginning of salvation history God desired for all mankind to live in community. God called the Patriarchs to faith, not just for themselves, but as part of a community.
- The Catholic Church continues the community that God called together with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

TASK SIX: PROMOTES A MISSIONARY SPIRIT THAT PREPARES THE FAITHFUL TO BE PRESENT AS CHRISTIANS IN SOCIETY

- The faith that was revealed to the Patriarchs is a faith for all people. Through our Baptism each person is called to share their faith with the entire world.
- The same Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets to speak God's word still inspires people today.
- We await the full realization of the Kingdom of God. Each person can work to build up the Kingdom of God by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

IN GOD'S IMAGE

- God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are a community of love that we call the Holy Trinity.
- God created man and woman in His image. Man and woman are the highest of all creatures and are made to love and serve God.
- God made humans as man and woman. Man and woman complete and compliment each other.

UNDERSTANDING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH—STRUCTURE AND TRADITION

- Structure: Universal Church and “particular” church
- Tradition: The Mission of the Magisterium, and the Marks of the Church

INCULTURATION

SAINTS

Our Lady of Fatima
St. Jerome
St. Francis Xavier
St. Dominic Savio
St. Thérèse of Lisieux
St. Maria Goretti

NEWLY INTRODUCED SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Sacred Scripture

TRADITIONS AND DEVOTIONS

Marian Devotions
Advent and Christmas celebrations
Lenten and Easter customs
Ordinary Time
All Saints Day and Patron Saints
All Souls Days
Pentecost
Holy Days of Obligation

PRAYERS

NEW PRAYERS TO BE INTRODUCED. . .

Spontaneous prayer of Praise, Sorrow, and Petition
Simple Responses at Mass
Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

PRAYERS THAT SHOULD BE MEMORIZED. . .

Sign of the Cross
Our Father
Hail Mary
Apostles' Creed
Act of Contrition
The Glory Be to the Father
Act of Faith
Act of Hope
Prayer before and after meals
Angel of God
Morning Offering
The Angelus

VOCABULARY*

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|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Advocate | Anger | Apostolic Succession | Ark of the Covenant |
| Assembly | Atonement | Authority | Babylonian Exile |
| Canaan | Canaanites | Canon | Capital Sins |
| Chosen People | Common Good | Communal Prayer | Compassion |
| Concupiscence | Decalogue | Deposit of Faith | Discriminate |
| Divine Providence | Divine Revelation | Ecclesiastes | Emmanuel |
| Envy | Exiled | Exodus | Faithfulness |
| Genesis | Greed | Heritage | Holy of Holies |
| Idolatry | Inspiration | Intemperance | Isaiah |
| Israelites | Jerusalem | Job | Jordan River |
| Joseph (son of Jacob) | Judah | Judges | Law of Love |
| Lector | Lord | Lust | Magisterium |
| Manna | Mount Sinai | Mystery | New Jerusalem |
| Old Covenant | Oral Tradition | Participating in Society | Patriarch |
| Pentateuch | Personal Prayer | Pharaoh | Philistines |
| Plague | Prefigure | Pride | Promised Land |
| Prophet | Proverbs | Racism | Rea Sea |
| Redeemer | Reform | Repentance | Revelation |
| Right to Life | Righteous | Sacred Tradition | Salvation History |
| Scribes | Seder | Seraphim | Sirach |
| Sloth | Social Justice | Song of Solomon | Steward |
| Superstitious | Torah | Trust | Universal Church |
| Unleavened | Wisdom | Wisdom Literature | Yahweh |

*Only the new words for this year are included in this list.