

Grade 7

BACKGROUND FOR CATECHISTS

Know Your Audience

Just like Jesus, every good catechist knows their audience.

“The catechist – must take into consideration all the human factors of a particular age level in order to present the Gospel message in a vital and compelling way.” (NDC #48)

Who Are Your First Graders?

Faith Development

Children at this age:

- ❖ Grow in their relationship with God particularly through prayer based on life experience
- ❖ Vest great authority in parents and other trusted adults
- ❖ Desire to join in the ritual of the parish community as seen in the desire to participate in Penance and Eucharist
- ❖ Need help in formation of conscience
- ❖ Begin to sort out reality from imagination based on practical experience
- ❖ Need concrete experiences to understand concepts and religious truths
- ❖ Use classes and categories to order actions around them
- ❖ Can begin to project themselves imaginatively into the position/situation of others
- ❖ Begin to order the religious world
- ❖ View rules as inflexible
- ❖ Understand reality best in story form
- ❖ Identify with heroes and heroines of the Bible
- ❖ Identify with stories of the Church (lives of the saints for example)
- ❖ Desire to learn about people and their differences
- ❖ Accept attitudes of parents, teachers, the Church, and other social institutions toward differences in people

Grade 1 Catechists

Guiding Principles

Catechists should:

- Help the children begin to acquire basic spiritual attitudes through the expression of gestures, since children relate readily to the language of symbols and gestures. Provide frequent opportunities for the children to engage in ritual: i.e. processions, offerings, praising, and thanking God in prayer and song.
- Help the children move from a moral stage known as self-interest. Endeavor to awaken in them an awareness of the needs and feelings of others. Invite them to reach out to others in love and concern.
- Help the children acquire an image of God through the stories you read and tell. Images later become more mature concepts and feelings about God. Emphasize the love and providence of God and God's faithfulness by using scripture stories.
- Provide examples of one who is conscious of God's presence in the world, in his or her life; of one who is joyful, and of one who is ever striving to follow Christ more closely. Remember children at this age tend to imitate others.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Children at this age:

- Tire easily physically and intellectually.
- Have short attention spans.
- Are very active.
- Prefer play over work.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Children at this age:

- Are centered on "self"; need help in developing relationships; seek to identify self as unique individuals in family, school, and world
- Use "me" a great deal, want desires fulfilled in a short time; only beginning to understand the concept of "our".
- Need boundaries of respect and responsibility set, need to be encouraged to share
- Grow by identifying with adults who must "model" for child
- Exhibit curiosity and enthusiasm
- Open and eager to tell about family; need sensitivity to family situations
- May have developed social skills because of preschool environment
- May give "windows to what is within them" through their drawings
- Boys and girls may prefer to sit, work, play in separate groups

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

Children at this age:

- Can usually think logically about concrete, real objects or personal experience
- Learn best by doing, showing, and experiencing
- Exhibit difficulty in reversing their thought processes in order to give the reasons that may have led up to a conclusion
- Have an excellent facility for memorizing, especially musical or rhyming refrains

NOTES

- ❖ Pope John Paul II in **On Catechesis in Our Time** encourages the use of advances in pedagogy; biology, sociology as they help us to model God's Divine Pedagogy (teaching us gradually in stages according to our level of development). The above noted information is consistent with such documents as the *General Directory for Catechesis*, the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and other Catechetical Documents of the Church.
- ❖ The above sciences have limitations. While this information does provide references to typical age ranges, children continue to be viewed as individuals and individual differences need to be taken into account.



First Grade

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Theme: The LOVE of God the Father as shown through creation and the KNOWLEDGE of God the Father as taught by Jesus, God's Son and our brother; our own initiation through Baptism and special assistance from the Holy Spirit.






The Catechist should:

- Make copies of the Parent Page (front and back) for students to take home.
- Read the Background for Catechists Information.
- Become familiar with the *National Directory for Catechesis & the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*.

AT THE END OF THIS GRADE LEVEL STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS AND APPRECIATION OF THE EXPERIENCES INDICATED.

[Note about symbols: Of the six tasks of catechesis (knowledge of the faith; liturgy & sacraments; moral formation; prayer; community; missionary spirit) five have a symbol assigned to them. Knowledge of the Faith is the organizing task]

Symbol Key:

 = Liturgy & Sacraments  = Moral Formation  = Prayer
 = Community  = Missionary Spirit

Reference Code: CCC = *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
Compendium = *Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*
USCCA = *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*

KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH


❖ God is a loving Father.


Date completed _____


CCC #239

Compendium #42

USCCA pp 51-52


 - Students will understand ways that God has shown us love.

 - Students will participate in different forms of prayer, i.e., quiet reflection, guided meditation, song, spontaneous, petition, thanksgiving, praise, and sorrow.

 - Students will become aware of the ways people care for us.

Luke 11:1-4 ... Lord's Prayer

Vocabulary: God

 Teach the Our Father

- ❖ **There are three persons in the Blessed Trinity.** Date completed _____
CCC #253-255; Compendium #48; USCCA pp 51-53

✚ - Students will participate in weekly prayer. Participate in different forms of prayer, i.e., quiet reflection, guided meditation, song, spontaneous, petition, thanksgiving, praise, and sorrow.

Matthew 3:13-17...the Baptism of Jesus Vocabulary: prayer

Teach the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be

- ❖ **God is the loving Creator of all things.** Date completed _____
CCC #293, 338; Compendium #53, 62; USCCA pp 53-54

♥ - Students will be aware of God's creation and recognize ourselves as unique and special parts of creation.

✚ - Students will participate in prayer services celebrating: God's creation, baptism, and forgiveness.

🌍 - Students will explore ways we can show we care for all of God's creation.

Genesis 1:1-2:4... Creation Vocabulary: create, God

- ❖ **Jesus is the Son of God, our brother, and teacher.** Date completed _____
CCC #240, 422, 427, 458, 2782; Compendium #46, 79, 80, 85, 583; USCCA pp 79-80

🌍 - Students will value Jesus as a model for the way we all should live.

✚ - Students will participate in different forms of prayer, i.e., quiet reflection, guided meditation, song, spontaneous, petition, thanksgiving, praise, and sorrow.

Luke 1:26-56 ... Annunciation Vocabulary: Jesus, Christ, bible

- ❖ **The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to give us gifts of peace, strength, and joy.** Date completed _____

CCC #728-730, 736; Compendium #140, 145; USCCA pp 102-109

✚ - Students will participate in different forms of prayer, i.e., quiet reflection, guided meditation, song, spontaneous, petition, thanksgiving, praise, and sorrow.

🌍 - Students will understand saints as people who lived lives of holiness and service in God's name.

Luke 24:49... Pentecost/Holy Spirit Vocabulary: Holy Spirit

Introduce the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit



- ❖ **Through baptism we are made sons and daughters of God and we become part of God's family.** **Date completed** _____

CCC #804, 1213, 1267; Compendium #153- 154, 252, 263-264; USCCA pp 192, 197



- Students will become aware that baptism makes us part of the larger family of God. Develop a sense of belonging to our parish community.



- Students will participate in prayer services celebrating: God's creation, baptism, and forgiveness.

Mark 10:13-16... Jesus Blesses the Children Vocabulary: baptism, godparent, Christian

- ❖ **We can grow to become loving parents, single people, priests, brothers or sisters.** **Date completed** _____

CCC #825; Compendium #165; USCCA pp 452



- Students will become aware of ministries in the parish, i.e., pastor, parochial vicar, director for religious education, catechist, lector, cantor, Eucharistic Minister, altar server.



- Students will understand saints as people who lived lives of holiness and service in God's name. Become aware of the ways people care for us.



- Students will understand the priest as the person chosen by God to represent Christ in the Church and who leads us in prayer at Mass.

Vocabulary: Christian, priest, family

- ❖ **God's family includes people of every race, age, culture, and ability.** **Date completed** _____

CCC #225, 360, 361, 775-776, 1934-1935; Compendium #43, 68, 152, 412;

USCCA pp 325-327



- Students will understand that we must love ALL people, even those who are different from us. Understand saints as people who lived lives of holiness and service in God's name.

Luke 10:25-37... Good Samaritan Vocabulary: Church

Have students try to memorize the Great Commandments

- ❖ **Special parts of the Church are the crucifix, altar, tabernacle, baptismal font, holy water font, reconciliation rooms or confessionals.** **Date completed** _____

CCC #1182-1185; Compendium #246; USCCA pp. 295-96

Vocabulary: altar, tabernacle

Plan a visit to your church or a historical church in the area

❖ **We belong to the Catholic Church.**

Date completed _____

CCC #830-833; Compendium #166-167; USCCA pp 129-132



- Students will develop a sense of belonging to our parish community. Appreciate the different groups to which we belong. Participate in special events with the parish such as the patron saint's feast, holiday customs, and blessings.



- Students will participate in formal prayer.



- Students will become aware of the ways people care for us.

Vocabulary: Catholic, parish, family

Discuss and show pictures of St. Paul Cathedral

❖ **The Eucharist is both a special meal that Jesus shares with us and a sacrifice of his love.**

Date completed _____

CCC #1382-1383; Compendium #287-288; USCCA pp 220-233



- Students will participate with all other Catholics in Sunday Mass where we hear God's Word and share the body and blood of Jesus. Understand the priest as the person chosen by God to represent Christ in the Church and who leads us in prayer at Mass.

Matthew 26:26-29... Last Supper

Vocabulary: Mass

❖ **During the Eucharist (Mass), we remember what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper before he suffered and died for us on the cross.**

Date completed _____

CCC #1365; Compendium #280; USCCA pp 235-237



- Students will participate in formal prayer.

Luke 22:14-20... Last Supper

Vocabulary: last supper, priest

❖ **During the Mass, Jesus is with us in a special way.**

Date completed _____

CCC #1373; Compendium #282; USCCA pp 223-22



- Students will become aware of the ways people care for us.

Vocabulary: Mass

❖ **God always forgives us if we ask and are sorry; God gave us a special sacrament of Penance.**

Date completed _____

CCC #1431, 1432, 1439, 1847; Compendium #300-301, 391; USCCA pp 235-237



- Students will participate in prayer services celebrating: God's creation, baptism, and forgiveness.

Vocabulary: forgiveness

❖ **Reconciliation is a special way God shows his love and forgiveness.**

Date completed _____

CCC #1422, 1440; Compendium #296, 302; USCCA pp 236-237

✚ - Students will participate in prayer services celebrating: God's creation, baptism, and forgiveness.



- Students will become aware of the ways people care for us.

Luke 19:1-10.... Zaccheaus

Vocabulary: forgiveness

❖ **Mary is the mother of Jesus, and Joseph is his foster father.**

Date completed _____

CCC #495, 532; Compendium #95, 104; USCCA pp 79, 143-145

♥ - Students will appreciate the holiness of family life



- Students will understand saints as people who lived lives of holiness and service in God's name.

Matthew 2:9b-11... Epiphany

Vocabulary: Mary, Joseph, saint

Teach the Hail Mary

❖ **Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are called the Holy Family.** **Date completed** _____

CCC #533, 564; Compendium #104; USCCA pp 79

♥ - Students will value our own family and extended family.

Luke 2:40-52....Finding in the Temple

Vocabulary: Mary, Joseph, family

List some of the various titles for Mary

❖ **Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus.**

Date completed _____

CCC #525; Compendium #103; USCCA pp 298, 507

✚ - Students will participate in activities for advent and lent to appreciate the significance of these liturgical seasons, e.g., advent wreath, stations of the cross for children.



- Students will participate in advent and Lenten activities that reach out to the wider community.



- Students will participate in special events with the parish such as the patron saint's feast, holiday customs, and blessings.


Luke 2:1-20... Nativity


Vocabulary: advent, Christmas

Talk about Angels

❖ **Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.** **Date completed** _____
CCC #640, 642, 1169; Compendium #126-127, 242; USCCA pp 364, 510

✚ - Students will participate in activities for advent and lent to appreciate the significance of these liturgical seasons, e.g., advent wreath, stations of the cross for children.

 - Students will participate in advent and Lenten activities that reach out to the wider community.

 - Students will participate in special events with the parish such as the patron saint's feast, holiday customs, and blessings.

John 20:1-18 ... Jesus Rises from the Dead and Appears to the Disciples

Vocabulary: Lent, Easter

STUDENTS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING PRAYERS

Sign of the Cross
Our Father
Hail Mary

Glory Be
Prayer before and after meals (optional)

