

PRAYER CURRICULUM GUIDELINES FOR PARISH-BASED CATECHETICAL PROGRAMS

GRADES K - 8

This curriculum establishes basic educational standards concerning prayer at each grade level, and asks catechists to help the children enter into the practice of prayer. In addition to the work of the catechists, this curriculum intentionally engages parents as well, and calls them to have an active role in the spiritual formation of their children.

KINDERGARTEN PRAYER CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Content Pillar	Diocesan Content Standard	Learning Objectives	Instructional Strategies	Parish Leader Role	Family Involvement	Catechist Role	Indicators	Differentiation	Resources
PRAYER	The Sign of the Cross	Children will be able to make the sign of the cross while invoking the Holy Trinity.	Practice making the Sign of the Cross with the child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess students' ability to make the sign of the cross by praying with each class and beginning each prayer with the Sign of the Cross. Include whole-parish practice of this prayer, and reminders/ instruction of the meaning and history of the Sign of the Cross (to parents/older siblings) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice making the sign of the cross with your child every day: in the morning, before meals, and at night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice making the Sign of the Cross with each child: at the start and end of every prayer, and at the start and end of every class. 	Observation		CCC 2157, (1235, 1668)
	The Our Father	Children will be able to pray the Our Father.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation of each line of the Our Father Assist with age-appropriate understanding of prayer-specific vocabulary: such as "hallowed", "Kingdom", "trespasses", etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess students' ability to pray the Our Father by praying this prayer with each class and beginning and ending whole-parish instruction/ events with the Our Father. Include whole-parish reminders/ instruction on the meaning and history of the Our Father (to parents/ older siblings) Provide catechists with inexpensive or free holy articles to give the children as incentives for knowing their prayers (e.g. holy cards, a rosary, small statues of saints, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray with your child the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At bedtime Before travel Upon entering church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation and memorization of each line of the Our Father Connect learning of this prayer with previously-learned concepts (Sign of the Cross, father's role in a family, how Jesus gave this prayer to us in the Bible) 	Observe that the child can recite the Our Father	<p><u>Tier one:</u> Help child to memorize each line of the Our Father, explaining the meaning of each component (when child asks)</p> <p><u>Tier two:</u> Encourage child to reflect on what is meant by each component of this prayer Jesus gave us to pray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful (i.e. hand gestures, pictures or images of "Father" "Heaven" "Kingdom" "bread", etc.) 	CCC 2759, 2857-2865

<p>The Hail Mary</p>	<p>Children will be able to pray the Hail Mary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation of each line of the Hail Mary Assist with age-appropriate understanding of prayer-specific vocabulary: such as “Hail”, “blessed”, etc. 	<p>Assess students’ ability to pray the Hail Mary by praying this prayer with each class and beginning and ending whole-parish instruction/ Family Faith Sessions with the Our Father. Include whole-parish reminders/instruction /Rosary Family Faith Sessions which explain the meaning and history of Hail Mary (to parents/ older siblings)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray with your child the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At bedtime Before travel Upon entering church In happy times In times of sorrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation and memorization of each line of the Hail Mary Connect learning of this prayer with previously-learned concepts (Mother’s role in a family, how this prayer appears in the Bible) 	<p>Observe that the child can recite the Hail Mary</p>	<p><u>Tier one:</u> Help child to memorize each line of the Hail Mary, explaining the meaning of each component (when child asks) <u>Tier two:</u> Encourage students to reflect on what is meant by each component of this prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful (i.e. hand gestures, pictures or images of Mary, etc.) 	<p>CCC 2676, 2677</p>
<p>The Glory Be</p>	<p>Children will be able to pray the Glory Be.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation of each line of the Glory Be Assist with age-appropriate understanding of prayer-specific vocabulary: such as “Father”, “Son”, “Holy Spirit”, “Beginning”, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess students’ ability to pray the Glory Be by praying this prayer with each class and beginning and ending whole-parish instruction/ events with the Glory Be. Include whole-parish reminders/ instruction on the meaning and history of the Glory Be; the doxology (to parents/older siblings) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray with your child the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At bedtime Before travel Upon entering church In happy times In times of sorrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation and memorization of each line of the Glory Be Connect learning of this prayer with previously-learned concepts (the Sign of the Cross, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) 	<p>Observe that the child can recite the Glory Be.</p>	<p><u>Tier one:</u> Help child to memorize each line of the Glory Be, explaining the meaning of each component (when child asks) <u>Tier two:</u> Encourage students to reflect on what is meant by each component of this prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful (i.e. hand gestures, pictures or images of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). 	
<p>Blessing before meals</p>	<p>Children will develop a habit of praying before meals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation of each line of the Grace/Meal Blessing Assist with age-appropriate understanding of prayer-specific vocabulary 	<p>Assess families’ ability to pray this prayer by beginning and ending whole-parish instruction/ events with a Meal Blessing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray a simple blessing before every meal Give thanks to God for His love and gifts Ask God to bless those who do not have enough to eat Write a family grace before meals and pray it before eating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation and memorization of each line of the Meal Blessing Reflect on the importance of thanking God for His generosity 	<p>Observe that the child can recite a form of grace or blessing before meals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use learning-style appropriate visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful Connect to previously-learned concepts Use visual and kinesthetic reinforcement when helpful 	

	Prayer before bedtime	Children will develop a habit of praying before going to sleep.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation of each line of a bedtime prayer. Assist with age-appropriate understanding of prayer-specific vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With parents, and whole-parish instruction, encourage prayer at bedtime, upon waking, before travel, in happy moments, in times of sorrow, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray with your child before bedtime: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give thanks to God for one good thing/ event of the day Ask God to bless our friends, family and needs in the world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice a bedtime prayer such as: “Now I lay me down to sleep...” or an informal prayer to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank Jesus for something Bless our loved ones Encourage prayer at bedtime, upon waking, before travel, etc. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use learning-style appropriate visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful Connect to previously-learned concepts Use religious songs as a source of prayer 	
	The Guardian Angel prayer	Children will develop a habit of prayer to the child’s Guardian Angel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation of each line of the Guardian Angel prayer. Assist with age-appropriate understanding of prayer-specific vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With parents, and whole-parish instruction, encourage the Guardian Angel prayer, upon waking, before travel, going to sleep, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray with your child and help him/her to develop a relationship with his/her guardian angel Pray to your child’s guardian angel to protect him/her each day 	Engage children in year-round activities which encourage the child to speak/ pray to his/her Guardian Angel every day for protection and safety	Observe involvement in activities which encourage the child to speak/ pray to his/her Guardian Angel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use learning-style appropriate visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful Connect to previously-learned concepts of God’s love and protection for us 	CCC 336
	Personal Relationship with God	Instill a habit of prayer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in simple examples of spontaneous prayer. Tell how and when we pray. Participate in formal prayers Use religious songs as a source of prayer. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray with your child spontaneously, and ask him/her to do the same on different occasions. Gather as a family once a day to say one of the formal prayers together (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be) Use religious songs as a source of prayer. 		Observe involvement in activities which encourage the child to pray spontaneously		
		Identify that God is everywhere			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set aside family time and have each family member say things he/she is happy to thank God for. 				

		Recognize that God loves them.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Talk always with your child about the love of God. •Make a list of all of their gifts from God. 				
		Identify that all things are a Gift from God.	Relate that all things are a gift from God		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Take a family prayer walk. Go for a walk together and thank God for all the things you see and hear. 				
		Understand that each of us is a unique and special creation of God	Recount God's creation of the world in an age-appropriate manner with a children's Bible or a coloring book about God creating the world.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ask your child to draw a picture of himself/herself with God who created him/her. •Provide coloring materials to communicate the wonder of God's creation. 				
		Understand the role of saints in our lives.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Tell your child some stories about saints. •Celebrate your child's Saint Feast day. •Buy your child religious objects 				
	Mass	Demonstrate appropriate and respectful participation during Mass.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model appropriate Mass behavior. • Correct your child when he/she behaves badly at church. • Provide rewards for good behavior in church (e.g. donuts after Mass) 				

GRADE ONE PRAYER CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Content Pillar	Diocesan Content Standard	Learning Objectives	Instructional Strategies	Parish Leader Role	Family Involvement	Catechist Role	Indicators	Differentiation	Resources
PRAYER	All previous standards								
	Our Father, Hail Mary, & Glory Be	Children will be able to pray these prayers more easily than before.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice choral recitation of each line of the prayers • Assist with age-appropriate understanding of prayer-specific vocabulary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide catechists with inexpensive or free holy articles to give the children as incentives for knowing their prayers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ small statues of a saint ○ holy cards, medals. ○ the rosary, scapular, holy water, and other sacramental • Other incentives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ announcement in bulletin or by pastor ○ Bulletin boards, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray with your child the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. Opportune moments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At bedtime ○ Before travel ○ Upon entering church ○ In happy moments & times of sorrow • Pick a prayer leader in your family to lead these prayers when you pray them as a family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice choral recitation and memorization of each line of the Our Father • Connect learning of this prayer with previously-learned concepts (Sign of the Cross, father's role in a family, how Jesus gave this prayer to us in the Bible) 	Observe that the child can recite the Our Father	<p><u>Tier one:</u> Help child to memorize each line of the Our Father, explaining the meaning of each component (when child asks)</p> <p><u>Tier two:</u> Encourage child to reflect on what is meant by each component of this prayer Jesus gave us to pray</p> <p>Use visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful (i.e. hand gestures, pictures or images of "Father" "Heaven" "Kingdom" "bread", etc.)</p>	CCC 2759, 2857-2865
	Stations of the Cross	Children will be able to participate in an age-appropriate Stations of the Cross.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist children with understanding of the Stations of the Cross through visual aids and dramatic presentations. 	Provide families and catechists with opportunities for children to participate in age-appropriate understanding of the Stations of the Cross.	Attend Stations of the Cross with your child at your parish.	Guide children in their understanding of the Stations of the Cross, especially during Lent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have children visit the church where the Stations of the Cross are displayed, and introduce them to the Stations of the Cross on the church walls. 		

	Guardian Angel Prayer	Children will develop a habit of prayer to their Guardian Angel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation of each line of the Guardian Angel prayer. Assist with age-appropriate understanding of prayer-specific vocabulary 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray with your child and help him/her to develop a relationship with his/her guardian angel Pray to your child's guardian angel to protect him/her each day 	Engage children in year-round activities which encourage the child to speak/pray to his/her Guardian Angel every day	Observe involvement in activities which encourage the child to speak/pray to his/her Guardian Angel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use learning-style appropriate visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful Connect to previously-learned concepts of God's love and protection for us 	CCC 336
	Personal Relationship with God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to share reasons why and when they pray. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in regular practice of spontaneous prayer. Teach and show children how and when we pray. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your child to talk to Jesus when he/she is sad, happy, confused, etc. Remind your children that they can talk with Jesus like they talk with their best friend. Pray with your child and let your child see you pray. Be a good example with your consistency, posture, demeanor, etc. 		Observe involvement in activities which encourage the child to pray spontaneously		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWBAT know that silence helps enter into and attend to God's presence in prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice silent prayer in the classroom setting. Create and maintain a prayer table in the classroom with sacramentals such as holy water, prayer cards or statues of Jesus and Mary, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide families and catechists with resources for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contemplative prayer and creating an environment that encourages contemplative prayer. Provide free or inexpensive holy articles for the catechists to give the children such as: holy cards, medals, scapular, rosary, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a small prayer table in your child's room. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let him/her select a small statue of a saint. Collect holy cards, medals. Keep the rosary, scapular, holy water, and other sacramentals on this table. Pray with your child in this sacred "space". 	Create a safe classroom with time for silence and silent prayer whenever possible.	Observe childrens' behavior and reverence during silent prayer.	Consider using guided meditative prayer based on the Gospel stories of Jesus. Allow for moments of quiet time in class. Extend the length of quiet moments as the year goes on.	

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage your child to go to this space in times of frustration as well as joy. 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CWBAT prepare and assume different roles in communal prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participate in regular practice of communal prayer, encouraging each child to assume different roles. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assign a different family member each day to lead the family prayer. 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CWBAT realize through active participation in a variety of prayer forms that God is present in their lives in a special way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participate in regular practice of a variety of prayer forms. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask each family member to make a thank you card which tells God how much you love Him and are grateful for all you have. Hang your card in a special place. 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CWBAT acknowledge the love of Jesus in their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relate that all things are a gift from God. ● Show ways that God demonstrates His love for each of them. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make a list of all your child's gifts from God. ● Speak frequently to your child about the love of God. ● Put on a short play to display the ways God shows love. ● Before bedtime, ask the child to thank Jesus for one thing that happened during the day. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Put on a short play to display the ways God shows love. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children will be able to understand that each of us is a unique and special creation of God 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask your child to draw a picture of himself/herself with God who created him/her. 				

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to know that they can pray alone, but the church is a sacred and special place for prayer because it is God's house. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an unexpected visit to church other than on a Sunday. Walk through the church slowly with your child. Light a candle and say a prayer with your child while you are there. 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to understand that they belong to their family and God's family, the Church. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in parish community activities. 				
	Mass	Children will be able to participate prayerfully in Mass.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray before Mass with your child to prepare interiorly for Mass, and pray thanksgiving prayers after Mass • Correct your child when he/she behaves badly at church. • Provide rewards for good behavior in church (e.g. donuts after Mass) 				

GRADE TWO PRAYER CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Content Pillar	Diocesan Content Standard	Learning Objectives	Instructional Strategies	Parish Leader Role	Family Involvement	Catechist Role	Indicators	Differentiation	Resources
PRAYER	<i>All previous standards plus:</i>								
	Eucharistic Songs	Children will be familiar with traditional hymns associated with Holy Communion and Eucharistic Adoration and will be able to sing to Jesus in the Eucharist.	Teach the children Eucharistic songs and sing those songs frequently so the children become familiar with them.	Find appropriate Eucharistic songs and distribute them to catechists and parents.	Before bedtime pray with your child, beginning or ending the prayer with one of the songs learned in catechism.	Begin each class with a prayer and a Eucharistic song the child needs to become familiar with during the year.	Observe the child's participation in, and familiarity with, the Eucharistic songs.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Communion Hymns • Eucharistic Adoration Hymns
	Eucharistic Adoration	Children will be able to understand the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist in age-appropriate terms, and will know how to pray to Jesus in the Eucharist.	Bring the children into church on several occasions during the year and have them say a prayer together. Teach them how to pray personally to Jesus in the Eucharist in silence and give them brief periods of silence to do so.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the church (lights, candles, etc.) for class visit to the church. • Prepare an outline for church visits and communicate it to catechists. • Invite parents to join. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your child say a prayer with you then teach him/her how to pray personally to Jesus in the Eucharist in silence. • Let your child practice on his/her own for a few minutes in silence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring the children into church at appointed times for silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. • Teach the children how to greet Jesus in the Eucharist and pray to Him in silence. • Give the children brief periods of silence to pray to Jesus personally. 	Observe how the child prays in silence while in church.		CCC 1356-1381

	The Act of Contrition	Children will be able to pray an age-appropriate Act of Contrition in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice choral recitation of each line of the Act of Contrition Teach the meaning of words and concepts in the Act of Contrition (e.g. sin, forgiveness, mercy, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an age-appropriate Act of Contrition to both parents and catechists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray the Act of Contrition with your child before going to bed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help the child memorize the Act of Contrition through repetition. 	Observe the child praying the Act of Contrition		CCC 1440-1460
	Examination of Conscience	Children will be able to participate in an age-appropriate examination of conscience and will be prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead children to discover the goodness of God around them. Teach that there are good actions and bad actions. Teach simple version of the 10 Commandments. 	Provide catechists and families with age-appropriate materials to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, including an examination of conscience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a child's examination of conscience (booklet) and go through it together, answering questions that arise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review an age-appropriate examination of conscience with the children. Help the children examine their consciences and give them time to reflect. 	Observe the child going through the examination of conscience.		
	Mass	Children will be able to participate prayerfully in Mass.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach cursory understanding of the main parts of the Mass. Teach simple meaning behind the gestures and symbols used during Mass (e.g. holy water, genuflection, kneeling, standing, liturgical colors, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule church visits so every class has the chance to visit the church at least twice each year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray before Mass with your child to prepare interiorly for Mass, and pray thanksgiving prayers after Mass Correct your child when he/she behaves badly at church. Provide rewards for good behavior in church (e.g. donuts after Mass) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring children into church and show them the symbols used in Mass. Teach the children the songs used for Mass parts (e.g. Glory to God, Alleluia, Holy, Holy, Holy). 			CCC 1331-1332; 1348-1353; 2770

GRADE THREE PRAYER CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Content Pillar	Diocesan Content Standard	Learning Objectives	Instructional Strategies	Parish Leader Role	Family Involvement	Catechist Role	Indicators	Differentiation	Resources
PRAYER	<i>All previous standards plus:</i>								
	The Rosary	Children will be familiar with praying the rosary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show children how to pray the rosary. Distribute a rosary to every child and his/her parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide booklets to children and parents on how to pray the rosary. Provide rosaries to every child and his/her parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review with your child the way to say the Rosary. Pray the Rosary as a family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show children how to pray the rosary. Begin class with one decade of the rosary (rotate decades). 	Observe children praying the rosary.		
	The Memorare	Children will be able to pray the Memorare	Practice choral recitation of the Memorare in class to aid in memorization.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help the child memorize the Memorare prayer to Our Lady by praying the prayer at home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help children understand that Jesus gave Mary to us to be our heavenly Mother (use holy cards or images of Mary in heaven). Explain vocabulary in prayer in age-appropriate manner. 	Observe children praying the Memorare		
	The Stations of the Cross	Children will be able to participate in an age-appropriate Stations of the Cross during Lent.	Assist children with understanding of the Stations of the Cross through visual aids and dramatic presentations.	Provide families and catechists with opportunities for children to participate in age-appropriate understanding of the Stations of the Cross.	Have each family member draw their own Station of the Cross and describe why he/she chose that one.	Guide children in their understanding of the Stations of the Cross, especially during Lent.	Have children visit the church where the Stations of the Cross are displayed.		

	<p>Eucharistic Adoration</p>	<p>Children will be able to understand the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist in age-appropriate terms, and will know how to pray to Jesus in the Eucharist.</p>	<p>Bring the children into church on several occasions during the year and have them say a prayer together. Teach them how to pray personally to Jesus in the Eucharist in silence and give them brief periods of silence to do so.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the church (lights, candles, etc.) for class visit to the church. • Prepare an outline for church visits and communicate it to catechists. Invite parents to join. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your child say a prayer with you then teach him/her how to pray personally to Jesus in the Eucharist in silence. • Let your child practice on his/her own for a few minutes in silence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring the children into church at appointed times for silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. • Teach the children how to greet Jesus in the Eucharist and pray to Him in silence. • Give the children brief periods of silence to pray to Jesus personally. 	<p>Observe how the child prays in silence while in church.</p>		<p>CCC 1356-1381</p>
	<p>Personal Relationship with God</p>	<p>Children will be able to share how God takes care of them and is always faithful to them.</p> <p>CWBAT develop a deeper devotion to Mary and the saints.</p>	<p>Participate in regular practice of identifying God's protection of his children in this world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and maintain a prayer table in the classroom with the rosary, statues of Mary and the saints, holy water, etc. • Read/View the lives of the saints. • Share the Saint of the Day in the classroom; assign this task to a child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide families and catechists with resources for learning more about <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mary and ○ the saints ○ Marian Consecration ○ Marian apparitions 	<p>Before evening prayer ask: What did God do for you today?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a family, consecrate yourselves to the Blessed Virgin. • Read the lives of the saints. • Share the Saint of the Day at the dinner table; assign this task to your child. • Pray in front of statues of Mary in the house; lay flowers before the statue/ • Light candles or place flowers before statues of the saints • Tell stories about Mary and the saints at bedtime • Read books/watch videos on the saints. 		<p>Observe involvement in activities which encourage the child to thank God and pray spontaneously</p> <p>Observe children's behavior and reverence during silent prayer.</p>		

GRADE FOUR PRAYER CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Content Pillar	Diocesan Content Standard	Learning Objectives	Instructional Strategies	Parish Leader Role	Family Involvement	Catechist Role	Indicators	Differentiation	Resources
PRAYER	<i>All previous standards</i>								
	Apostles' Creed	Children will be able to recite the Apostles' Creed and explain its basic meaning and importance.	Have children say the prayer together, then teach the meaning of the prayer, line by line.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let your child practice the Apostles' Creed with you and tell you the meaning of each line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue memorization of this prayer over the church year. Highlight the lines in the Apostles' Creed that correspond to doctrinal content or liturgical celebrations during the year (e.g. Easter and Jesus rising from the dead). 	Observe the child reciting the Apostles' Creed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use learning-style appropriate visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful Connect to previously-learned concepts of God's salvation story 	
	Devotionals	Children will be able to describe and participate in age-appropriate devotionals (Feast of Saints, Stations of the Cross, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist children with understanding of devotionals through visual aids and dramatic presentations. 	Provide families and catechists with opportunities for children to participate in age-appropriate understanding of these devotions.	Attend a Rosary, Litany, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction service at your parish.	Guide children in their understanding of devotionals, especially in the context of the Liturgical Year (e.g. pray the divine mercy chaplet around Divine Mercy Sunday; pray the Angelus around the feast of the Annunciation; pray devotionals to the patron saint of the parish).	Observe the practice of devotionals and take note of the ones to which the child is most attracted.		

	<p>Forms of Prayer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to define prayer • Children will be able to describe the differences between public and private prayer • Children will be able to recite a spontaneous prayer • Children will be able to show a desire to incorporate prayer in their daily lives as Jesus did. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and practice the five basic “forms” or categories of prayer (Blessing and Adoration; Petition; Intercession; Thanksgiving; Praise), and give examples of each. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide catechists and parents with materials and aids that explain the basic 5 forms of prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have each family member share their favorite times and places to pray. • Talk about how your family can encourage each other to pray. Then do one concrete thing that week that will help you remember to pray. • Pray with your child before he/she goes off to school. • Encourage your child to write a prayer for something good that happened to them each day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach children the 5 basic forms of prayer. • Practice one of the different forms of prayer and rotate them each session. • Provide aids for prayer (e.g. Christian praise and worship songs for “praise”; ask each child for a “petition” he/she wants to pray for; ask each child to state one thing they wish to “thank” God for; help children find ways to express their “adoration” of God, etc.) 	<p>Observe involvement in activities which encourage the child to pray spontaneously</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use learning-style appropriate visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful • Connect to previously-learned concepts of God’s love and protection for us 	<p>CCC 2623-2643</p>
	<p>Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><i>*Every catechetical program will include at least 2 periods during the year for Eucharistic Adoration from 4th Grade forward.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to understand the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist in age-appropriate terms, and will know how to pray to Jesus in the Eucharist. 	<p>Bring the children into church at least 2 times during the year and have some common prayer together along with time for personal silent prayer. Teach them how to pray personally to Jesus in the Eucharist in silence and give them brief periods of silence to do so.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the church (lights, candles, etc.) for class visit to the church. • Prepare an outline for church visits and communicate it to catechists. • Invite parents to join. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your child say a prayer with you then teach him/her how to pray personally to Jesus in the Eucharist in silence. • Let your child practice on his/her own for a few minutes in silence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring the children into church at appointed times for silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. • Teach the children how to greet Jesus in the Eucharist and pray to Him personally using the 5 basic forms of prayer. • Give the children brief periods of silence to pray to Jesus personally in the classroom so they become familiar with being in silence. 	<p>Observe how the child prays in silence while in church.</p>		<p>CCC 1356-1381</p> <p>“The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith. The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service. The fruit of service is peace.” (Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta)</p>

	Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to participate prayerfully in Mass. • CWBAT prepare and assume different roles in communal prayer services and in the Mass. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray before Mass with your child to prepare interiorly for Mass, and pray thanksgiving prayers after Mass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage children to participate in Mass interiorly and exteriorly • Encourage children to become altar servers or join the children's choir. 			
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GRADE FIVE PRAYER CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Content Pillar	Diocesan Content Standard	Learning Objectives	Instructional Strategies	Parish Leader Role	Family Involvement	Catechist Role	Indicators	Differentiation	Resources
PRAYER	<i>All previous standards</i>								
	Prayer in General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to describe what prayer means to them and why it is important in their lives Children will be able to discuss difficulties in prayer and strategies to overcome them. Children will be able to examine Jesus as the model for prayer in the Gospel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach and practice the five basic “forms” or categories of prayer (Blessing and Adoration; Petition; Intercession; Thanksgiving; Praise), and give examples of each. Find examples in the Gospel stories of when Jesus prayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate prayer and discussions about prayer in a Prayer Family Faith Session. Scaffold faith conversations in these family faith gatherings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss what friendship is and what it brings to your life. Think about Jesus as your best friend and share with Him your thoughts, feelings and secrets. Encourage your child to write a prayer for something good that happened to them each day. Set a time aside every day to find something to be grateful for and to ask God for. 		<p>Observe involvement in activities which encourage the child to talk about prayer life, have faith conversations, and pray spontaneously</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use learning-style appropriate visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful Connect to previously-learned concepts of prayer God’s love and protection for us 	
	Meditative Prayer and Lectio Divina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to participate in guided meditative prayer based on Gospel Stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead children in meditative prayer and <i>lectio divina</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare resources with Gospel Stories for catechists and parents to use for meditation. Train catechists in <i>lectio divina</i> and practice with them so they can train and pray with children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a meditative prayer together based on a gospel story. Read the Mass readings for Sunday in advance (e.g. Friday or Saturday) with your children and have them take time to reflect. Ask them questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train and guide children in meditative prayer and <i>lectio divina</i>. Find quiet spots for reflection (e.g. the church), and use visual aids (sacred art, stained-glass windows, etc.) to help them reflect. 	<p>Observe child’s involvement in meditation</p>		

	Litany of the Saints	Children will be able to participate in guided prayer of the Litany of the Saints	Pray the Litany of Saints with the children.	Gather various litanies to the saints, both particular saints and saints that will be meaningful for 5 th graders, and distribute to catechists and parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate the feast day of the patron saint of your child • Identify which Holy Day we celebrate the saints. • Choose a favorite saint and learn about his/her life • Buy your child religious objects related to saints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak to the children about various saints, ask them to pick a saint and study more about the saint and then write a prayer to the saint of choice. • Lead the children in short litanies to the saints at various points during the year. 	Observe the child praying to the saints and note which saint(s) are most meaningful to him/her.		
	Eucharistic Adoration <i>*Every catechetical program will include at least 2 periods during the year for Eucharistic Adoration from 4th Grade forward.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to understand the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist in age-appropriate terms, and will know how to pray to Jesus in the Eucharist. 	Bring the children into church at least 2 times during the year and have some common prayer together along with time for personal silent prayer. Teach them how to pray personally to Jesus in the Eucharist in silence and give them brief periods of silence to do so.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the church (lights, candles, etc.) for class visit to the church. • Prepare an outline for church visits and communicate it to catechists. Invite parents to join. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your child say a prayer with you then teach him/her how to pray personally to Jesus in the Eucharist in silence. • Let your child practice on his/her own for a few minutes in silence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring the children into church at appointed times for silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. • Teach the children how to greet Jesus in the Eucharist and pray to Him personally using the 5 basic forms of prayer. • Give the children brief periods of silence to pray to Jesus personally in the classroom so they become familiar with being in silence. 	Observe how the child prays in silence while in church.		CCC 1356-1381 “The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith. The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service. The fruit of service is peace.” (Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta)
	Acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity	Children will pray the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice choral recitation of each prayer. • Teach the meaning of words and concepts in the prayers. 		Pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Charity with your child.	Help the child memorize the Acts Faith, Hope, and Charity through repetition	Observe the child praying the Acts Faith, Hope, and Charity		

	Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to participate prayerfully in Mass. CWBAT prepare and assume different roles in communal prayer services and in the Mass. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray before Mass with your child to prepare interiorly for Mass, and pray thanksgiving prayers after Mass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage children to participate in Mass interiorly and exteriorly Encourage children to become altar servers or join the children's choir. 			
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GRADE SIX PRAYER CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Content Pillar	Diocesan Content Standard	Learning Objectives	Instructional Strategies	Parish Leader Role	Family Involvement	Catechist Role	Indicators	Differentiation	Resources
PRAYER	<i>All previous standards</i>								
	The Battle of Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to discuss the importance of perseverance to overcome distractions and difficulties in prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model, encourage, and practice regular prayer conversations. Review the five basic “forms” or categories of prayer (Blessing and Adoration; Petition; Intercession; Thanksgiving; Praise), and give examples of each. Find examples in the Gospels of when Jesus prayed, and His instructions on prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate prayer and discussions about prayer in a Prayer Family Faith Session. Scaffold faith conversations in these family faith gatherings. Incorporate saints and their prayer lives, as well as how they overcame temptations in prayer, into catechist lesson plans and family faith sessions (e.g. Mother Teresa) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the Book of Job together and discuss how Job stayed faithful in the face of all of his trials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate saints and their prayer lives into catechist lesson plans (e.g. Mother Teresa) Model, encourage, and practice regular prayer conversations in the classroom 	Observe involvement in activities which encourage the child to talk about prayer life, have faith conversations, and pray spontaneously	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use learning-style appropriate visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful Connect to previously-learned concepts of prayer God’s love and protection for us 	
	The Saints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to recognize saints as witnesses of faith whose example they can emulate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give plentiful examples of the lives of the saints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a Family Faith Session on the topic of Saints. Scaffold faith conversations in these family faith gatherings. Incorporate saints and their prayer life into catechist lesson plans and family faith sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrate the feast day of the patron saint of your child. Identify special saints for your family and attend Mass on those feast days. Choose a favorite saint and learn about his/her life Buy your child religious objects related to saints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate saints and their prayer lives, or prayers they wrote, into catechist lesson plans Give plentiful examples of saints’ lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observe recognition of saints and their histories Students will be able to identify with different saints and pray according to the model of the saints with whom they most closely identify 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the diversity of saints to the diversity of learners in the classroom, so that children can more closely identify with the saints and the ways they became holy. 	CCC 946-962; 1172-1173; 2156

<p>The Psalms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to understand that the Psalms are rooted in the Judaic community, were prayed by Christ, and are still used today for personal and communal prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray the psalms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -At home -in class -in times of joy -in times of sorrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provide regular instruction on the psalms •Incorporate psalms into catechist lesson plans, family faith session, and whole parish gatherings. •Highlight psalms during liturgical seasons in the form of Advent or Lenten parish missions on the Psalms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pick a favorite psalm, share why it is a favorite, and pray it together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Model, practice, and encourage regular praying of the psalms in class and in at-home assignments. •Select several psalms and allow children to identify the psalms that touch them the most. •Develop a prayer book for the children and include their favorite psalms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Observe recognition of and memorization of famous psalms •Children will be able to identify with certain psalms and pray and memorize those psalms that have particular meaning for them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Highlight the range of human emotions explored in the psalms. Help children to find their favorite psalms based on how they are feeling today and at certain times in their lives. 	
<p>The Rosary and other Marian Devotions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Rosary and other Marian Devotions • Children will be able to name and explain the Mysteries of the Rosary (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, Glorious) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pray the rosary— or at least a decade of the rosary— before classes or gatherings. •Make a chart of the Mysteries of the Rosary and which days of the week correspond to each mystery. •Do research on the rosary and the mysteries we reflect on as we pray. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provide Rosary Family Faith Sessions which explain the meaning and history of the Rosary and Marian Devotions •Provide families and catechists with resources for learning more about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mary and the saints o Marian Consecration o Marian apparitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Read the Gospel account of Jesus giving His Mother Mary to all of us. •Understand that Mary leads us to Jesus. •Offer a prayer for your own mother. •Make a chart of the Mysteries of the Rosary and which days of the week correspond to each mystery. •Do research on the rosary and the mysteries we reflect on as we pray. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Make a chart of the Mysteries of the Rosary and which days of the week correspond to each mystery. •Do research on the rosary and the mysteries we reflect on as we pray. •Say a decade of the rosary at the beginning of class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Observe memorization of the rosary and the rosary mysteries. •In faith discussions, children will be able to identify with certain mysteries at certain times of their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have children participate in a living rosary •Have children be rosary leaders in whole parish gatherings 	<p>John 19:26-27</p>
<p>Lenten Devotions & Penance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to understand and practice the Church’s traditions of Lenten devotions and penance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model, encourage, and practice attending the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Stations of the Cross as a family, and as a class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provide Lenten Family Faith Sessions which instruct and allow families to practice Lenten devotions and penance •Scaffold families as they attend parish Lenten Confessions and Stations of the Cross. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have each family member offer a Lenten sacrifice and do something together as a family as well. •Attend family faith sessions and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, as a family during Lent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model, encourage, and practice attending the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Stations of the Cross as a family, and as a class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Observe and answer questions about penance, Stations of the Cross and other Lenten devotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have children participate in a Living Stations of the Cross •Have children attend a Living Stations of the Cross 	

	<p>Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to list and explain the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide explanations of each; have children provide examples of each. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ample opportunities for children and families to practice both Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (as a class at the parish, with suggestions of how to do these at home or elsewhere) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about how you and your family can grow in your ability to do the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Create a concrete plan to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model, encourage, and practice Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as a family, and as a class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe and answer questions about Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have children participate in Works of Mercy with which they most closely identify 	
	<p>Personal Relationship with God</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to know that God's covenants with us call each person to a life of prayer and holiness; that holiness means living in communion with God, and loving others through concrete actions. • Experience God's life deepen within the child through prayer and the Sacraments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage children to understand those Bible stories that involve God establishing covenants with His people in an age-appropriate manner. • Connect these stories/studies with personal and communal prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide catechetical materials and Family Faith Sessions on the topics of covenant Bible Stories, Human Formation, Prayer etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how prayer is a relationship. Talk about the qualities of a relationship, e.g. spending time together, talking and listening, sharing together, etc. Try to develop that kind of friendship with God through prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model and encourage questions and discussion about personal relationships with God. Use Bible stories as a starting point to show how God takes the initiative to enter into a relationship with us. • Provide copies of Bibles to children and have them read the stories of God establishing covenants with His people, and give them silent time and answer during personal prayer and meditation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe questions asked by students as they form their own personal relationship with God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage to communicate with God in the way(s) they most feel comfortable: adoration, devotionals, the Bible, sacred music, art, etc. 	

GRADE SEVEN PRAYER CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Content Pillar	Diocesan Content Standard	Learning Objectives	Instructional Strategies	Parish Leader Role	Family Involvement	Catechist Role	Indicators	Differentiation	Resources
PRAYER	<i>All previous standards</i>								
	The Lord's Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to explain the meaning of the seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer and understand that this is a compilation of the Gospel message. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer Explore the New Testament account of when Jesus taught the disciples to pray this prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate the Lord's Prayer into whole-parish gatherings Include petitions for the parish community in whole parish prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say the Lord's Prayer as a family. Pray prayers of petition as a family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend meaningful class prayer time and discussion time on the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer. 	Observe that the child can connect the Lord's Prayer with the Gospel message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use learning-style appropriate visual and kinesthetic reinforcements when helpful Connect to previously-learned concepts of prayer God's love, care, (<i>give us this day our daily bread, forgive us our trespasses</i>) and protection for us (<i>deliver us from evil</i>) 	CCC 2759-2854
	Eucharistic Spirituality and Devotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to explain and appreciate the role of Eucharistic spirituality and devotion such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoration Benediction Visits to the Blessed Sacrament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model, encourage, and practice using templates for prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament (ex. Include frames or examples of personal prayer, include the Divine Praises, etc.) See resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Family Faith Sessions on Eucharistic Devotions Provide opportunities for classes to visit the Blessed Sacrament Provide appropriate frames or guidelines for Benediction (songs, Divine Praises) and personal prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell your children the words Jesus said to His apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane when he asked the apostles if they could not stay awake and pray with him. Visit the Blessed Sacrament during Lent as part of family Lenten Prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model, encourage, and practice by bringing the class to prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament 	Observe the reverence that the children display during Eucharistic devotions over the year (after several practices, for example)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow less time for younger learners; more time for contemplative adorers 	Family Faith Session template on Eucharistic Adoration (See Appendix A)

	<p>The Rosary and other Marian Devotions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through prayerful experience children will learn that the rosary is the heart of the Gospel expressing devotion to Jesus through Mary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model, encourage, pray the rosary as a family and as a class. Say a decade of the rosary at the beginning of class. Make a chart of the Mysteries of the Rosary and the Bible readings which correspond to each mystery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regular whole-parish recitations of the rosary for each season and causes Have rosaries and rosary prayer guides available for families, visitors, and parishioners Provide Rosary Family Faith Sessions which explain the meaning and history of the Rosary and Marian Devotions (to children/parents/older siblings) Provide families and catechists with resources for learning more about <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary and the saints Marian Consecration Marian apparitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrate the May Crowning and make an effort to pray the rosary as a family during October and May. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a chart of the Mysteries of the Rosary and the Bible readings which correspond to each mystery. Say a decade of the rosary at the beginning of each class. 	<p>Observe that children will pray the rosary in personal time, at home, in Adoration, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage children to ask questions about the rosary (history, mysteries, miracles, etc.) to learn their level of understanding. Learn more about the rosary—as a class; as a family. For example, encourage children to read more about rosary miracles and saints, leaders, and nations who have prayed the rosary throughout history. 	<p><i>Fatima For Today</i>, by Fr. Andrew Apostoli</p>
	<p>Advent Devotions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to understand and practice the Church’s Advent tradition of the waiting and longing for the coming of the Lord. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model, encourage, and practice Advent traditions, and appropriate reverence Provide instruction and practice in Advent traditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Lenten Family Faith Sessions which instruct and allow families to practice Advent devotions and penance Scaffold families as they attend parish Advent practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an Advent wreath and prayer service for lighting the candle in the home at every meal during the Advent season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create classroom Advent wreath(s) Instruct about the meaning of each Sunday (each candle) in Advent 	<p>Observe children’s questions about Advent at home, in class. See that they recognize sign of Advent at the church, in the home, at other churches, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage families to participate in Holy Family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesse Tree/Bible Timeline Family Faith Session Template (See Appendix A)

<p>Lenten Devotions & Penance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to understand and practice the Church's Lenten traditions of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model, encourage, and practice Lenten devotions, and appropriate reverence • Provide instruction and practice in Lenten traditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Lenten Family Faith Sessions which instruct and allow families to practice Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving • Scaffold families as they attend parish Lenten Confessions and Stations of the Cross. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privately choose names of family members from a hat and pray for them during Lent. At the end of Lent, let the family member know that you were praying for him/her and what form that prayer took. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend meaningful class prayer and discussion time on Lenten traditions such as connections between prayer and fasting, or prayer and almsgiving. 	<p>Observe children's questions about Lent at home, in class. See that they recognize sign of Lent at the church, in the home, at other churches, in the world etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put on a class play with members depicting prayer, almsgiving, and fasting—and the significance of each. • Participate as a class or parish in the practice of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday Family Faith Session Template (See Appendix A) • Confession & Stations of the Cross Family Faith Session Template (See Appendix A)
<p>The Beatitudes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to identify the Beatitudes and understand them as the pattern of the Christian way of life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the New Testament account of when Jesus taught the Beatitudes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ample opportunity for classes and whole parish to interact with the Beatitudes: through instruction and/or service projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post the Beatitudes in your home as a reminder of what brings us happiness in our lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend meaningful class prayer and discussion time on the Beatitudes. 	<p>Observe children's demonstration of the Beatitudes in class communication and in other contexts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put on a play depicting each of the Beatitudes • Participate in service projects which demonstrate the Beatitudes 	<p>CCC</p>
<p>Personal Relationship with God</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to understand that Jesus is our role model of prayer • Children will be able to discuss how trust in God is the basis for prayers of petition. • Children will be able to reflect more deeply on their spiritual relationship with the Lord 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the Bible, examine examples of how Jesus acted in different circumstances in His life • Write petitions with the children. • Provide ample opportunities for personal reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide catechetical materials and Family Faith Sessions on the topics of Christ's example in Bible stories, Human Formation, Prayer etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine examples of how Jesus acted in different circumstances in His life • Write family and personal petitions with your child • Buy your children Christian music and listen to it with them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine examples of how Jesus acted in different circumstances in His life • Write classroom petitions with the children. • Provide ample opportunities for personal reflection on spiritual relationship with Jesus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe how children identify with Jesus' model of prayer, and trust in God. • Observe a positive, progressive response from children when they are asked about their spiritual relationship with Jesus. 	<p>Continue faith conversations at home and in class to identify children's spiritual relationship with Jesus, and to help children of all maturity levels maintain and progress in this relationship with Jesus.</p>	<p>Made in God's Image Family Faith Session Template (Appendix A)</p>

	Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to understand and participate freely in the weekly celebration of Sunday Mass as the foundation of Catholic spirituality and prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model, encourage, and practice Mass and Mass reverence and behavior • Continue instruction and review of all parts of the Mass as important times when we pray: praise, adore, petition, give thanks (see <i>Altaration</i> in Resources). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ample opportunities for families and classes to attend Mass together. • Provide catechetical materials and Family Faith sessions on the Holy Mass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind the children of Jesus' words at the Last Supper when He commanded His disciples to celebrate Mass by "doing this in memory of me". • Refer to Him as the Bread of Life and develop the concept of the importance of spiritual food and nourishment in our lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model, encourage, and practice Mass and Mass reverence and behavior • Employ lessons which continue instruction and review of all parts of the Mass as important times when we pray: praise, adore, petition, give thanks (see <i>Altaration</i> in Resources). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe a positive, progressive response from children when they are asked about Mass. 	<p>Continue faith conversations before/after Mass (and about Mass) to help children of all maturity levels maintain and progress in their experience of Mass, and their relationship with Jesus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Holy Mass Family Faith Session Template (Appendix A) • <i>Altaration</i>, Ascension Press - particularly Session 5: The Why's and What's (of Mass)
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GRADE EIGHT PRAYER CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Content Pillar	Diocesan Content Standard	Learning Objectives	Instructional Strategies	Parish Leader Role	Family Involvement	Catechist Role	Indicators	Differentiation	Resources
PRAYER	<i>All previous standards</i>								
	Personal Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be able to evaluate their own practice of personal prayer and describe how they will make changes to strengthen their prayer lives. • Children will be able to explain and use various expressions of prayer (vocal, meditative, contemplative) • Children will be able to discuss how prayer can deepen their appreciation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives. • Children will be able to review how prayer inspired men and women of faith in the Scriptures. • Children will be able to pray to God with an open heart to know God’s call and plan for their lives, including a possible vocation to the priesthood or religious life. • Children will be able to pray the rosary using all four mysteries of the rosary as the basis for meditating on the lives and mission of Jesus and Mary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice different forms of prayer, For example, use meditations based on Gospel stories, contemplative exercises, silence, music, and vocal prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide families and catechists with resources for learning more about and practicing the “expressions of prayer (vocal, meditative, contemplative) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how prayer supports your faith; commit to praying together before meals and at the end of the day. • Write a meditative prayer together • Be an example of daily prayer at home, as your child will more likely pray if he/she sees you praying individually and as a couple at home. • Use situations of hard times to talk with your child about biblical figures like David or Job who prayed to God in times of trial. • Pray the Diocesan prayer for vocations. • Pray the rosary as a family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend meaningful class discussion time, and personal reflection time on the practice of personal prayer. • Lead the children through guided meditations by making use of <i>lectio divina</i> (e.g. with the Gospel reading for following Sunday’s Mass). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe that the child can participate in self-evaluation of prayer life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge that not all students will share personal prayer reflection verbally; provide other options such as writing, music, artful depictions, etc. 	<p>CCC 2697-2719</p> <p>The podcast “Praying as you go” (iTunes store)</p>

	<p>Theological Virtues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to identify and explain the Theological Virtues in order to strengthen their spiritual lives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith Hope Charity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a chart of the Theological and Cardinal Virtues and how the 7 corresponding Gifts of the Holy Spirit relate to those virtues and enable us to live them more fully and with greater ease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide families and catechists with ample opportunities and resources for learning more about and practicing the Theological Virtues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice the Theological Virtues as you guide your child. For example, say a family prayer or rosary before doing a Corporal Work of Mercy as a family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice these Virtues as you guide your children. Spend meaningful class prayer time and discussion time on the Theological Virtues with regard to personal decisions and current topics. Post the chart of Virtues and Gifts in the classroom for reference throughout the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observe the development of these Virtues in the children over the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge that there may be differences between younger learners and more mature students with regard to some of these Virtues. 	<p>CCC 1812-1832; 2656-2660; 733-741</p>
	<p>Cardinal Virtues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to explain and practice the Cardinal Virtues in order to strengthen their spiritual lives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudence Justice Temperance Fortitude 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a chart of the Theological and Cardinal Virtues and how the 7 corresponding Gifts of the Holy Spirit relate to those virtues and enable us to live them more fully and with greater ease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide families and catechists with opportunities and resources for learning more about and practicing these Virtues. For example: Made in God's Image (Human Formation/TOB) resources, speakers, and family faith sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice these Virtues as you guide your child. For example, say a family prayer (or rosary or attend Mass together) during a difficult time, or before making important family decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice these Virtues as you guide the children. Spend meaningful class prayer time and discussion time on the Cardinal Virtues with regard to personal decisions, challenges, temptations, and current topics. Post the chart of Virtues in the classroom for reference throughout the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observe the development of these Virtues in the children over the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge that there may be differences between younger learners and more mature students with regard to some of these Virtues. 	<p>CCC 1803-1811; 733-741</p>
	<p>Mass</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to take leadership roles in working with students at other grade levels in preparing and directing a communal prayer service or liturgy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model, create, and practice communal prayer and Mass responses using appropriate resources for liturgical prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ample opportunities to encourage families and classes to attend Mass together. Provide catechetical materials on communal prayer and liturgy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a short family prayer service, having each person responsible for preparing one part. Use it once a week for the next month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a short class prayer service, having each person responsible for preparing one part. Use it with the class or with other grade levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observe a positive progression in children's questions about and participation in Mass as they mature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge that there may be differences between younger learners and more mature students regarding participation in Mass 	<p>USCCB.org</p>