



*The Faith That Marks God's People*

# **Guidelines for Catechesis**

Grade Four

Archdiocese of New York  
Revised - 2016

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May 15, 2016  
Feast of Pentecost  
Year of Mercy

Dear friends in the Lord:

With prayer and confidence in your dedication to the mission of catechesis – to bring everyone closer to Jesus Christ – I promulgate these *Guidelines for Catechesis, Pre-Kindergarten Through Grade Six* in the Catholic school and catechetical programs of the Archdiocese of New York.

This is the third edition of the *Guidelines*. Since they were first promulgated in 1987, the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office and the Office of the Superintendent of Schools found it necessary to revise and update them, particularly in light of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, published in 1995. This update incorporates added scriptural references, protocols on catechesis issued by the bishops of the United States, and the new translation of the *Roman Missal*.

Allow me to thank the leaders of the Guidelines Revision Committee for their efforts: Sr. Joan Curtin, CND, director of the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office and chairperson; Ms. Nancy Doran; Ms. Linda Fitzsimons; Ms. Margaret Hoblin; Sr. Teresita Morse, RJM; Mr. Philip Gorrasi; Ms. Lisette Robustelli; and Ms. Paige Sanchez.

Just a few months after his election, Pope Francis spoke to catechists attending the International Congress on Catechesis in Rome, and thanked them for their commitment. He said:

*Catechesis is a pillar of faith education and we need good catechists! Thank you for your service to the Church and in the Church. Even if at times it may be difficult and require a great deal of work, and although the results are not always what we hope for, teaching the faith is something beautiful! It is perhaps the best legacy we can pass on: the faith! To educate in the faith, to make it grow. To help children, young people and adults to know and love the Lord more and more is one of the most exciting aspects of education. It builds up the Church!*

Permit me to add my own heartfelt thanks. I count on you, your knowledge of and faithfulness to Church teaching, and your pedagogical skills to assist me in sharing the faith that we were given at baptism and enriched by years of living and learning. Hopefully, you know that I could not carry out this sacred duty without you.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim. Carol. Dolan." with a cross symbol to the left.

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York



## ***The Faith That Marks God's People***

**The Faith That Marks God's People** is developed according to the following format in grades one through six:

1. Each grade level is introduced by a statement of the year's doctrinal theme.
2. The pedagogical objective of the year follows the theme statement.
3. The **Guidelines** are to be read across the page, following the delineated bands.

The basic teachings of the faith are contained in the first two columns: "Core Content" and "Christian Living."

The "Core Content" column presents the faith concepts; the "Christian Living" column explains how these concepts are to be lived out by Catholics. The issues of morality, including respect for life and concern for justice and peace, form the substance of this column.

The "Sacred Scripture" column includes several passages in the Old or New Testament where the core content is imaged or taught.

The "Prayer and Worship" column suggests prayer and liturgical experiences for the child.

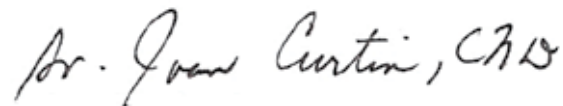
4. Throughout the Guidelines, from grades one through six, there is a developmental presentation of the major concepts.
5. On the final page of each grade level, there is a listing of vocabulary, prayers, and liturgical symbols and liturgical gestures to be taught. This page also includes the portion of the Creed that is to be taught or reviewed, and prayers to be encouraged.
6. After each entry in the **Guidelines**, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1997*, is cited in support of the concept expressed. These citations are intended to deepen the catechist/teacher's understanding, on an adult level, of the content being taught.

The **Guidelines** are addressed to the catechist/teacher, not to the students. Nonetheless, throughout the **Guidelines**, the language has been kept as simple and straightforward as possible without sacrificing theological and doctrinal accuracy. It is hoped that the language used to present each concept will help the catechist/teacher to teach the concept according to the capacity of the student.

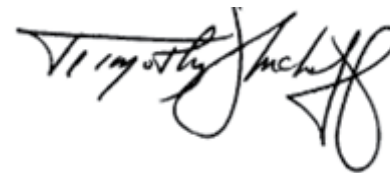
These **Guidelines** are not to be considered a substitute for the textbook. It is recommended that each parish select a single textbook series found to be in conformity with the US. Bishop's Protocol, for use in grades one through six for the school and parish programs, and that these **Guidelines** be used in conjunction with that textbook series. The **Guidelines** have been designed to assist the catechist/teacher in the use of the textbook by providing the essential content to be taught at each grade level.

To implement these **Guidelines** effectively, the catechist/teacher must be committed to give time and talent not only to catechizing others, but also to growing personally in faith and understanding. For this reason, an extensive Archdiocesan **Catechist Formation Program** in all counties of the Archdiocese is offered both online and on site to ensure ongoing theological, spiritual and pedagogical formation of all catechists/teachers.

Through this endeavor, it is hoped that the whole Church of New York will continue to grow in the faith that marks God's people.



Sr. Joan Curtin, C.N.D.  
Director, Catechetical Office



Dr. Timothy J. McNiff, Ed. D  
Superintendent of Schools



## THEME:

*As God's people, we are called to live as Jesus did,  
choosing a life of love,  
characterized by obedience to God  
and service to others.*

## OBJECTIVE:

To help the children form their consciences according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, and to learn the basis of Christian morality as taught in the Old and New Testaments.

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>God is all good. 385</p> <p>Holiness is sharing in God’s goodness and responding to God’s love by the way we live, especially by the love we show our neighbor, the poor, the needy and even our enemies. 1709, 1825, 2013</p>	<p>Virtue is a habitual and strong disposition to good. As we grow in virtue we grow in holiness. 1833</p>	<p>God’s goodness Psalm 118:1</p>	<p>Teach the children the Sanctus (see Grade 4 - Page 7), which we sing or say at Mass to praise God. 269, 559, 1352, 2809</p>
<p>In the work of creation human beings first saw traces of the Mystery of God. Creation reflects the infinite beauty, wisdom and goodness of the Creator. 198, 237, 341</p>	<p>We must respect the life and goodness of every living creature. We must avoid any misuse of things, which would show contempt for the Creator and do harm to the earth’s environment. 339</p>	<p>God’s glory in creation Psalm 8</p>	
<p>Created in God’s image, we have the ability to think, to make choices (free will) and to love. 1700, 1730</p> <p>Throughout our lives God continually calls us and graces us to know the good, and to love unselfishly. 30, 1704, 2028</p> <p>Learning to know and to choose the good that God desires for us is the lifelong process of conscience formation. 1777, 1784</p>	<p>The steps for making a good moral choice are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pray for the help of the Holy Spirit,</li> <li>- recall God’s law and the Church’s teachings,</li> <li>- consider the consequences of the choice,</li> <li>- seek advice when necessary,</li> <li>- remember Jesus is with us and speak with him about the choice,</li> <li>- recall that our decision will affect our relationship with God and others.</li> </ul> <p>1785-89, 1811</p> <p>It is through conscience that we judge whether an act is right or wrong. In forming our consciences we are guided by the Scriptures as interpreted by the Catholic Church, the teachings of the Catholic Church and the example of those who are good. 1749, 1778, 1785</p>	<p>Created in God’s image Genesis 1:27, 31 Genesis 2:4b-25</p> <p>God’s call to choose the good Deuteronomy 30:16</p> <p>Faith and Works James 2:14-17</p>	<p>Present Lent as a season of renewal in preparation for Easter. Explain the purpose of prayer, penance and fasting, especially during Lent. 1095, 1434, 1438</p> <p>Teach the children to pray the Stations of the Cross. 1674-75, 1785</p>



Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
	<p>We often feel drawn to make selfish choices. This is called “temptation.” Temptations in themselves, however, are not sinful. 2847-48</p> <p>Feelings are not always accurate signs of whether a choice is right or wrong.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sometimes we feel sad even though we have made a good moral choice.</li> <li>- Sometimes we feel glad even though we have made a wrong moral choice.</li> </ul> <p>1768</p> <p>By the development of conscience, a person is able to take responsibility for his or her choices. 1781</p>		<p>Encourage the children to reflect each evening on how they have lived as a Christian that day (examination of conscience). 1779, 1784-85</p> <p>Teach them to thank God when they succeed with his help in doing good and to ask forgiveness when they fail. 1847, 2007-09</p>
<p>We sin when we disobey God and his Law, whether by thought, word, action or omission. Serious sin, that is, completely turning away from God, is called “mortal.” Less serious sin is called “venial.” 1849,1853, 1855, 1857-59, 1862-63</p>		<p>Choice of Evil Genesis 3:1-24 Genesis 4:1-16</p>	
<p>God’s Self-Revelation was extended in history to a Chosen People with whom God made a covenant. 59-60, 62, 121, 2059</p>	<p>Just as God was with the Chosen People making them his own, so God is with us today making us his own. 422, 1692, 2084</p>	<p>Call of Abraham Genesis 12:1-3 Covenant Promise Exodus 19:3-6</p>	<p>Encourage the children to pray an Act of Faith frequently. 1816, 2662</p>

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>Through this covenant, God taught the Chosen People how to live. This way of life is expressed particularly in the Two Great Commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” Luke 10:27. 2055, 2061</p> <p>In order that they might live this covenant, God gave the Chosen People the Ten Commandments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.</li> <li>2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.</li> <li>3. Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day.</li> <li>4. Honor your father and your mother.</li> <li>5. You shall not kill.</li> <li>6. You shall not commit adultery.</li> <li>7. You shall not steal.</li> <li>8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.</li> <li>9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.</li> <li>10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;">2056-57,2060-61</p>	<p>The Commandments help us to find happiness, in judging right from wrong and in knowing how to love God, our neighbor and ourselves. 1548-49, 1962, 2057, 2064</p> <p>(It is important that what is commanded or forbidden be explained according to the age level of the children using catechetical materials that are in conformity with the U. S. Bishop’s Protocol.)</p> <p>The Ten Commandments express our fundamental duties toward God and neighbor. We are obliged to live by them always and everywhere. 2062, 2072, 2083</p> <p>The first three concern love of God, and the other seven, love of neighbor. They form an organic whole. To disobey one is to infringe on all the others. 2067, 2069</p>	<p>The Two Great Commandments Luke 10:27</p> <p>The Ten Commandments Exodus 20:1-17</p>	<p>Have the children memorize the Two Great Commandments. 2055</p> <p>Have the children memorize the Ten Commandments. 2064-65</p>
<p>God’s self-revelation was brought to fullness in Jesus who made a New Covenant with his people. 66, 73, 1965</p>	<p>The Covenant relationship means that God is with us always. We respond by choosing to follow the way of life God has given us. 1693-94,1723-24</p>	<p>Jesus, the Revelation of God John 1:17-18</p>	<p>Explain Advent as a season of expectancy. Present such symbols and practices as the Advent Wreath and the Jesse Tree. 65, 522, 524, 1095</p>



Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
The Holy Spirit is the Person of the Blessed Trinity who enables us to respond to God's Covenant of love by living as Jesus did. 683, 729, 735-36	We need to listen to the Holy Spirit who is always present guiding us throughout our day. 687, 1724, 1788, 2659-60	Gift of the Spirit Romans 5:5b Galatians 5:25	Encourage the children to pray to the Holy Spirit. 687, 2670-72, 2744
<p>Today, the Catholic Christian community, guided by the Holy Spirit, supports us in our response to God's covenant of love:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- by teaching us God's Commandments,</li> <li>- by helping us form right consciences,</li> <li>- by pointing to the example of Jesus, Mary, the saints and all who live the covenant.</li> </ul> <p>459, 1785, 2030-33</p>	<p>By participation in our family and parish communities, we both give and receive support for living the Christian life. 1656-57, 2179, 2226-27</p> <p>We find among the saints examples of people who lived Jesus' message in the midst of misunderstandings, discrimination, injustice and even persecution. 1717, 1808, 2015, 2473-74</p>	<p>Christian Community Ephesians 5:1</p> <p>Renewal of the Covenant 1 Corinthians 11:23-26</p>	<p>Present the Eucharist as an ever present renewal of God's covenant with us, by which the unity of believers, both in heaven and on earth, (the Communion of Saints) forms one body in Christ. 613, 948, 1337, 1365-66</p> <p>Help the children to examine their consciences, with prayer and reflection. 1454, 1779, 1784-85</p> <p>Arrange opportunities for the reception of the Sacrament of Penance, within a communal celebration if possible. 1140, 1438, 1482</p> <p>Explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Feast of All Saints, November 1,</li> <li>- All Souls Day, November 2</li> <li>- Devotion to the saints,</li> <li>- Patron saints,</li> <li>- Forms of Popular Catholic Piety</li> <li>- Apostles' Creed: "the communion of saints."</li> </ul> <p>688, 946-59, 1679, 1717 2030, 2156, 2683</p>

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Review the Apostles' Creed (Grade 1 – Page 6)

## WORDS TO BE TAUGHT

Absolution 1449

Beatitudes 1716

Commandment 2055,2082

Communion of Saints 946

Conscience 1776

Contrition 1451

Corporal Works of Mercy 2447

Covenant 70-72, 613

Holiness 2013

New Testament 124

Old Testament 121

Saint 1717, 828

Sanctus 559, 1352

Spiritual Works of Mercy 2447

Temptation 2847

## LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 132

Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199

Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community. 2179, 2226

## PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

Sanctus\*

## PRAYERS TO BE ENCOURAGED

Act of Faith

Stations of the Cross 1674

## REVIEW PRAYERS OF THE PREVIOUS GRADES

Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157

Our Father 2759

Hail Mary 2676-77

The Glory Be (Doxology, Grade 1 – Page 5)

Act of Contrition (Grade 2 - Page 6)

Simple responses at Mass

Morning and evening prayer 2698, 2685, 2659

Grace at meals 2834, 2698

Spontaneous prayer 2590, 2659-60

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament 1380

Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

### \*SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Acknowledgments:

References obtained through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Website ([uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org))

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The Act of Contrition is taken from the “Rite of Penance”, © 1974 by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

The Apostles’ Creed is taken from the Roman Missal 2010 (International Commission on English in the Liturgy)

The Glory Be is taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Website ([uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org))

The Protocol for Assessing the Conformity of Catechetical Materials with the Catechism of the Catholic Church was used to guide the revision process.