



Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Archdiocese of Washington Religion Curriculum Guide

Parent Guide: Grade 2

The Archdiocese of Washington employs a common religion curriculum for students throughout its parishes and schools called *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*. This curriculum identifies what each child should be able to know, understand and do at each grade level. Based on the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the curriculum contains six key elements and fourteen standards or areas of learning. The chart below outlines the curriculum structure.

Catechism Pillars	Key Elements/Tasks of Catechesis	Curriculum Standards
I. Creed- Profession of Faith	Promote Knowledge of Faith (1)	Creed (1)
		Scripture (2)
II. Celebration of Christian Mystery	Liturgical Education (2)	Sacraments (3)
		Liturgy (4)
III. Life in Christ	Moral Formation in Christ (3)	Conscience (5)
		Christian Living (6)
IV. Christian Prayer	Teaching to Pray in Christ (4)	Prayer (7)
		Christian Living*
	Education for Community Life (5)	Catholic Church (8)
		Ecumenism (9)
		Catholic Relationships (10)
		Vocation (11)
Christian Living*	Missionary Initiative (6)	Catholic Social Teaching (12)
		Inter-religious Dialogue (13)
		Missionary Vocation (14)

*While Christian Living is not a pillar of the Catechism, it flows from the Creedal statements of the preceding pillars.

Each standard consists of learning indicators or objectives that convey the age appropriate knowledge, skills and behaviors that students will learn. These indicators give focus to instruction and guide the use of texts and resources.

Below is a snapshot of the focus of each standard, followed by an example of a specific indicator for that standard.

1. CREED: Among other statements of faith expressed in the Creed, students will understand that God reveals Himself as Trinity and identify that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. They will recognize that Jesus was born of Mary and that she is the Mother of God. Students will also understand that God raised Jesus from the dead in the Resurrection.

- *Identify Jesus Christ as the Son of God, one with the Father and the Holy Spirit.*

2. SACRED SCRIPTURE: Students will identify the Bible as a special book that tells them about God. They will understand that the Bible has two parts, the Old Testament and New Testament, which help them to know, love, and serve God. Students will recognize that the Gospels tell about Jesus and His teachings and actions. There will be a special focus on His parables and miracles.

- *Identify the similarities between the miracle of the loaves and fishes and the Eucharist (John 6:1-12).*

3. SACRAMENTS: Students will define sacraments as visible signs where they encounter Christ and His grace. They will identify and describe aspects of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Students will define the Sacrament of Penance and distinguish between mortal sin, venial sin, and accidents.

- *Understand that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist under the form of bread and wine.*

4. LITURGY: Students will explain that we gather as God's family when at Mass. They will identify the major parts of the Mass as the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Students will demonstrate understanding that when the priest consecrates the bread and wine at Mass, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

- *Recognize the Eucharist as the greatest prayer in the life of the Church.*

5. CONSCIENCE: Students will articulate that God has given all people free will to choose what is right and to avoid evil. They will identify examples of good choices and discuss that God's grace helps them to make these choices.

- *Discuss how God's grace helps us to love God and love neighbor.*

6. CHRISTIAN LIVING: Students will recognize that all people have dignity and deserve love because they are made in God's image. They will identify that the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes help them to love God and others.

- *Identify that God gives us the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes to show us how to love God and love others.*

7. PRAYER: Students will identify prayer talking and listening to God. They will recognize that there are many ways to pray such as petition, thanksgiving, and praise. They will focus on the prayers of the Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary and Act of Contrition.

- *Show an understanding of the prayer of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.*

8. CHURCH: Students will state that Jesus started the Church to help Him spread the Good News. They will understand that the Church continues this mission of Jesus today especially by acting as a sign of God's love to the world. Students will examine what it means to be a member of the Catholic Church.

- *Show understanding that members of the Catholic Church are called to participate in the sacraments, attend Mass, pray daily, serve others, and recognize the authority of the Pope and bishops.*

9. ECUMENISM: Students will understand that Jesus wants all members of the Church to be one. They will recognize that they should continue to pray for this unity. Students will realize that other Christians believe in Jesus and in Baptism but do not share the fullness of all that Jesus taught.

- *Show understanding that other Christians share a common belief in God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit but do not share in the fullness of all that Jesus taught us.*

10. CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Students will understand that all people are created in God's image and belong to God's family. They will recognize that they are called to respect others and themselves.

- *Give examples of how we can treat others the way Jesus treated others.*

11. VOCATION: Students will explain that all Christians follow Jesus who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. They will also recognize that God has a plan for their lives and calls them to serve Him through their vocation. Students will state that vocations can take several forms.

- *State that God calls some people to serve Him through marriage, some through priesthood/religious life, and some as single, unmarried persons.*

12. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Students will recognize that all people have dignity and must be respected as members of God's family. They will state that Christians are called to care for all of God's creation and share what they have with others especially the poor.

- *State how, as Christians, we promise to care for all of God's creation.*

13. INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: Students will recognize that many people believe in God but are not Christian. They will understand that they respect people of all faiths because God loves all people.

- *Know that we respect people of all faiths because God loves all people.*

14. MISSIONARY VOCATION: Students will recognize that God sent His Son, Jesus, to show people how to live, and they need to share that story of Jesus with others. They will identify that the Eucharist gives them strength to serve others. Students will examine the stories of saints and missionaries as examples of how to bring the Good News to the world.

- *Recognize that we are all called to share the story of Jesus and his love with others.*