



Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Archdiocese of Washington Religion Curriculum Guide

Parent Guide: Grade 7

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 articulate that the Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith. They will explain how God reveals Himself over time and in human history. Students will understand that their faith involves a personal relationship with God and a free assent to the truths God has revealed.

- *Describe faith as a gift from God, a personal relationship with God, a free assent to God's truth that is nurtured by the Church.*

2. SACRED SCRIPTURE: Students will recognize that the Bible, while initiated by God through divine inspiration, has both human and divine authorship and reveals the truths that God intends. They will describe the Church's ability to teach and interpret Scripture. Students will focus on the

theme of covenant in the Old Testament and examine themes from the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament.

- *Describe these major themes in the Gospel of Luke: salvation includes everyone, special concern for the poor, the importance of women, and Mary as the first disciple.*

3. SACRAMENTS: Students will explore the implications of the indelible character of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. Students will closely examine the Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Holy Orders and Matrimony.

- *Describe that the Sacrament of Marriage requires the following: the marriage must be between a baptized man and a baptized woman who give free consent, who intend to fulfill a life-long covenant for the good of the spouses, and who are open to having children.*

4. LITURGY: Students will describe why every Catholic has the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days. In addition, they will recognize that they demonstrate their love for God through their full participation in the Eucharistic celebration.

- *Explain that every Catholic has the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.*

5. CONSCIENCE: Students will describe how the dignity of the human person is the foundation of Catholic Christian morality. They will identify that we derive our moral values from the life and teachings of Jesus Christ especially in the Beatitudes. In addition, they will seek to apply the Theological and Cardinal virtues to their lives in order to overcome sin in all its forms: original, personal, and social.

- *Recognize the Beatitudes as a source of the moral teaching of Jesus that presents a path to happiness in God.*

6. CHRISTIAN LIVING: Students will understand that being a Christian disciple requires following Christ as the way, the truth, and the life. They will recognize that promoting the common good and being active stewards of God's gifts allows them to continue Jesus' ministry and mission. Students will also learn the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

- *State that as Christians we are called to take an active role in public life and the promotion of the common good.*

7. PRAYER: Students will examine how prayer strengthens their personal relationship with God while enabling ongoing conversion. They will affirm that worship belongs to God alone and that the Eucharistic Liturgy is the Church's central act of worship. Students will also analyze the elements of the Lord's Prayer and be introduced to the prayer form Lectio Divina.

- *Recognize the Liturgy of the Eucharist as the community's central act of worship.*

8. CHURCH: Students will recognize that the Church is missionary by nature and that it has a special mission to serve the poor. They will identify the four marks of the Church and understand that the Church has many diverse liturgical traditions.

- *Define the Rites of the Catholic Church as the diverse liturgical traditions in which our faith is expressed and celebrated.*

9. ECUMENISM: Students will understand that the Trinitarian baptism of Christians is a starting point in the work towards Christian unity. They will understand that respect for other Christians does not mean that they deny the fullness of truth found in the Catholic Church.

- *Defend the Pope as the leader of the Catholic Church throughout the world, the successor of the Apostle Peter, and a sign of our unity.*

10. CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Students will recognize that human rights are based on their dignity as persons created in God's image. They will describe the role of human sexuality in God's plan and recognize that all Christians are called to live a chaste lifestyle.

- *Analyze what is needed to live a chaste lifestyle.*

11. VOCATION: Students will examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to their baptismal call. They will also explore the two forms of religious life: active and contemplative.

- *Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.*

12. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Students will recognize that they are called to respect life in all its stages. They will explain that the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy offer them a blueprint for serving others especially the poor.

- *Recognize that the Christian response to life is a recognition of its inherent dignity and a respect for life in all its stages.*

13. INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: Students will articulate that the Church respects non-Christian religions and faith traditions. In particular, they will understand that the Catholic Church acknowledges the special relationship between God and the Jewish people.

- *Show understanding that Jews express their faith by observing the commands of the Covenant, reading Sacred Scripture, worshiping in the synagogue, and following their customs of family life.*

14. MISSIONARY VOCATION: Students will explain that both their words and actions matter as they strive to be Christian witnesses. They will also identify examples of missionary witness in the lives of the saints.

- *Recognize that good stewardship calls us to share our time, talent, and treasure in the missionary work of bringing the Gospel to the world.*