



Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization Parents' Guide to Grade 1- Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide

The witness of Christian life given by parents in the family comes to children with tenderness and parental respect....It is deepened all the more when parents comment on the more methodical catechesis which their children later receive in the Christian community and help them to appropriate it. (GDC, no. 226 and CT, no. 68)

What exactly is this guide Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization?

- *A document that clearly states what participants in Catholic faith community religious education programs must know, understand, and do at each grade level*

What is the aim of this guide?

- The primary aim of this guide is to support integrated planning and preparations across all sectors of the church, including Catholic faith communities and families. This will be done as a part of a diocesan-wide effort to strengthen the teaching of the faith for adults, youth, and children. It is directed toward the need to prepare the whole church (not just children) to overcome the current epidemic of ignorance and doubt about the faith.
- These guidelines focus on the need for mutual collaboration, communication and consultation. They strive to clarify the rolls, responsibilities and mutual accountabilities needed by priests, lay catechetical leaders and all who assist in efforts to put adults, youth and children into communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ through life-long catechesis in and through the Catholic Church. These guidelines are focused to help all of Catholic faith communities as they both revise and plan their future catechetical efforts. Although this guide focuses on the formation of children, these standards will also provide a framework for future efforts in the faith formation of youth and young adults.

How is it organized?

- *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* is organized around the **Six Key Elements** of a lived Catholic faith while always remembering that the context for catechesis is *evangelization*. The six key elements of a Catholic faith life are: Knowledge of the faith; Liturgical and Sacraments; Morality; Prayer; Education for Living in the Christian Community; Evangelization and Apostolic Life. These are also known as the six tasks of Catechesis.

For Each Element

- There are standards or broad headings. All these standards should be covered in every program for adults, youth and children.

For Each Standard

- Each standard in turn has age appropriate indicators or knowledge, skills or behavior.
- These indicators should drive instruction and guide or focus use of any text or resources.

How are the indicators formatted?

- **Core items that must be covered in all Catholic faith community programs are in bold print.**
- *Enrichment items that are optional and can be covered if there is time are in italics.*

What is meant by words being underlined?

- **Underlining** means this is a vocabulary word to know. These words and their definitions are found online as *Appendix 3: Alphabetical Glossary*. When a simpler age appropriate definition is needed it is within the indicator itself.

Full texts of the prayers and practices for Catholics to teach your child are found online as *Appendix 2: Key Practices and Prayers for Catholics*.



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Key Element I: Knowledge of the Faith

– What We Believe

“Sacred Scripture has a preeminent position in catechesis because Sacred Scripture “presents God’s own Word in unalterable form” and “makes the voice of the Holy Spirit resound again and again in the words of the prophets and apostles.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church is intended to complement Sacred Scripture. Together with Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture constitutes the supreme rule of faith.” (NDC no. 24)

At-Home Ideas:

At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of the ***Knowledge of the Faith*** in your home: Parents of primary-grade children provide the most powerful influence on forming the faith of their children by living out their own faith with consistency and joy. Children experience God's loving presence in the everyday care and nurturing provided by parents. Families can also engage in primary-age actions and discussions of the Catholic faith. When children hear about the faith but do not see it lived out, they question its importance.

Standard 1 **CREED:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune and redeeming God as revealed in creation and human experience, in Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture, and as entrusted to the teaching office of the Church.

- Show understanding that God is the **creator** of all things in the universe, calling all creation good.
- Comprehend that I am made by God and destined to be with him **forever**.
- Show understanding that God created me as good and cares for me as a loving parent.
- State belief that there are Three Persons in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - the **Holy Trinity**.
- State that Jesus is God’s Son who was sent by him to teach us how to love one another as his children.
- Identify God the Holy Spirit as God’s Spirit alive in us and in the Church.
- Identify Mary as the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God.
- State meaning of the name of **Jesus** as “God saves” and **Christ** as “anointed”.
- Describe the meaning of **heaven** as being happy with God forever.
- Describe the meaning of **faith** as a gift from God that enables us to follow him.
- Identify the **church** as a community of those who believe in God and who ratify that belief by being baptized.

Standard 2 **SACRED SCRIPTURE:** Read, comprehend and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God’s revelation through Sacred Scripture.

- Identify the **Bible** as a sacred book that reveals who God is and his love for us.
- Name the **Gospel** as the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- Identify the Angel Gabriel as the messenger who told Mary that she would be the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God, at the Annunciation. (Lk 1:26-38)
- State that Jesus had many friends who followed his way.
- Describe how Jesus ate with his closest friends on the night before he died. (Lk 22)
- State that Jesus forgave those who crucified him before he died. (Lk 23:34)
- Describe Jesus’ **Resurrection** from the dead and appearances to his friends. (Mt 28, Mk 16, Lk 24, Jn 20-21)
- State that Jesus ascended into heaven.



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Key Element II: Liturgy and Sacraments ***- How We Celebrate***

“Faith and worship are as closely related to one another as they were in the early Church: faith gathers the community for worship, and worship renews the faith of the community... In her Liturgy, the Church celebrates what she professes and lives above all the Paschal Mystery, by which Christ accomplished the work of our salvation.” (NDC no. 32)

At-Home Ideas:

At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of the ***Liturgy and Sacraments*** in your home: Parents educate and prepare the primary child for first celebration of the sacraments of Penance and reconciliation and Eucharist by connecting daily experiences to Gospel teachings and their own experience of these sacraments. Families participate at Sunday Mass with the parish community and discuss the meaning of symbols. Simply talking about the readings from Mass is a powerful tool to begin to engage your child more in the liturgy.

Standard 3 **SACRAMENTS:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as effective signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- Identify [sacraments](#) as signs of God's love for me.
- States that Jesus gave the sacraments to the [Church](#).
- Describe the [Sacrament of Baptism](#) as the first sacrament allowing Christians to receive other sacraments.
- Describe the [Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation](#) as God's sign of [forgiveness](#) to us.
- Exhibit basic recognition of the [Sacrament of the Eucharist](#) as a sign of Jesus sharing Himself with us during the [Mass](#).

Standard 4 **LITURGY:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church as expressed in the liturgy year and epitomized in the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.

- Show respect for God by entering the church building quietly, making the [sign of the Cross](#) with Holy Water and genuflecting to the presence of God in the tabernacle.*
- Describe the [baptismal font](#) as the place of the ritual of Baptism where we are first welcomed into the Church.
- Describe the Mass as a time that God is present to us in His Word and in the Eucharist.
- Identify the proclamation of the [Gospel](#) at Mass as hearing God's Word spoken to us.
- State that Christ is present in those assembled, in the Word of God and in the priest.
- Identify when the priest speaks the words of Jesus at the [Last Supper](#) as the time that we recognize Jesus' presence with us in the bread and wine that become his Body and Blood.
- Identify the symbols and the colors of the seasons of the Church Year: [Advent wreath](#), [Lent ashes](#), [palms](#), cross, [Easter](#) candle.

Key Element III: Morality - How We Live

“Christ is the norm of morality. Christian morality consists in following Jesus Christ, in abandoning oneself to him, in letting oneself be transformed by his grace and renewed by his mercy, gifts which come to us in the living communion of his Church.” (NDC no. 42)



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At-Home Ideas:

At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Morality** in your home: Parents are responsible for forming a child's conscience through age appropriate instruction in right and wrong actions. Children will also notice the actions of their parents and other responsible adults and ask why they acted how they did. Parents have the opportunity to shape their child's view of the world and actions of people.

Standard 5 **Conscience:** Develop a moral conscience informed by church teachings.

- List and know images of the Holy Spirit.**
- Identify that we live good lives with the help of the Holy Spirit.**
- Recall that God created us to love – to do what is right and good in response to his love for us.**
- State that God gives us the ability to choose right or wrong.**
- Define sin as choosing to disobey God.**

Standard 6 **Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, conversion, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- Illustrate ways Jesus teaches us to love God and our neighbor, and state the Two Great Commandments of God and their meaning (Jn 13:34-35, Lk 10:25-28).**
- Show understanding that God created me as good and loving, to be respected and loved by others.**
- Recall that when other children are doing something that harms us, themselves or others, such as bullying, we should ask them to stop or ask parents/teachers to help.**
- State that God wants us to love and obey our parents.**

Key Element IV: Prayer

- How We Pray

“God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer” (CCC no. 1075). His initiative comes first; the human response to his initiative is itself prompted by the grace of the Holy Spirit... In prayer, the Holy Spirit not only reveals the identity of the Triune God to human persons but also reveals the identity of human persons to themselves. (NDC no. 34)

At-Home Ideas:

At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Prayer** in your home: Families help children memorize traditional prayers such as the Our Father and Hail Mary through daily repetition. The family prays together regularly at mealtime, bedtime, and special seasonal observances and to commemorate significant life events. The model of a parent in prayer can be the most inspiring catechesis on prayer a child will receive.

Standard 7 **PRAYER:** Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer and acknowledge prayer as the primary way we deepen our knowledge of God in the community.

- Recognize that prayer is listening to and talking to God as our loving Father.**
- Define prayer as coming into God's presence; when we love him, we are with him.**
- Explain how Jesus teaches us to pray.**



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- Memorize and recite the Sign of the Cross, the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be.
- Explain what [family prayer](#) is.
- Share an example of a prayer for the dead.
- Recognize that asking God for his help is called a prayer of petition.
- Recognize that when we pray to the Blessed Mother and the saints, they [intercede](#) to Jesus for us.
- Describe how the church is a special and sacred place.

Memorize and recite the Sign of the Cross, the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be. *Please note that the full texts of the prayers and practices for Catholics to teach your child are found online as Appendix 2: **KEY PRACTICES AND PRAYERS FOR CATHOLICS.***

Sign of the Cross [CCC no. 2157; cf. 786]

[Note: The directions for movement while saying this are in italics and parenthesis by each phrase]

In the name
of the Father, *(with the right hand, touch the forehead)*
and of the Son, *(touch the chest)*
and of the Holy Spirit. *(touch the left then the right shoulder)* Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Our Father, *Pater Noster*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Hail Mary (*Ave Maria*)

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you (thee);
blessed are (art) you (thou) among women,
blessed is the fruit of your (thy) womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be (*Gloria Patri*)

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community - How We Live in the Community, the Church

“We were created as social beings who find fulfillment only in love – for God and for our neighbor. If we are truly to gaze upon him who is the source of our joy, we need to do so as members of the people of God (cf. Spe Salvi no. 14). If this seems counter-cultural, that is simply further evidence of the urgent need for a renewed evangelization of culture.” (Benedict XVI – 16 April 2008 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception)”

At-Home Ideas:

At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of ***Education for Living in the Christian Community*** in your home: Living Christian community life does not happen spontaneously, it must be taught carefully (GDC, 77). Children are like apprentices learning at the feet of the master carpenter, Christ, who has shared this task with parents. Parents model the Christian virtues to their children and how to act in public settings with love and compassion.



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Standard 8 CATHOLIC CHURCH: Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of believers, as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charisms, members and the communion of saints.

- State that the **church** is a place where people gather to praise, thank and worship God.
- Show understanding that the Church is God's special family.
- State that we learn about God through the Church.
- Identify the name **Catholic** as the name of the Church of which we are members.
- State that Jesus Christ established the **Church** and commanded his followers to help the church grow.
- Retell stories to show that the Church has many holy people some of whom are called **saints**.

Standard 9 ECUMENISM: Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with other Catholic (Eastern), Orthodox, and Christian churches.

- Understand that Jesus founded the Catholic Church.
- Understand that other **Christians** share a common **baptism** and belief in Jesus even though they do not share everything that Jesus taught us.

Standard 10 CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

- Discuss that all persons are "created in God's image."
- Show how we love and respect our family.
- Define **womb** as a special place where a baby grows.
- Discuss that we treat others the way Jesus would have treated them.
- Distinguish between respectful touches and disrespectful touches.

Standard 11 VOCATION: Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ responding in faith by participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- Examine a variety of Christian **vocations** as a response to the **baptismal call**. Show understanding that God calls us as his own to be loved and to love.
- Show understanding that God calls us as his own to be loved and to love.
- State that marriage is a **vocation** between a man and a woman.
- Identify the priest as an **ordained** minister of the Church who has a special role of leading people in prayer.

Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life

– How we, as Individuals and Community, Live in Service to the World

“Only if we are aware of our calling, as individuals and as a community, to be part of God's family as his sons and daughters, will we be able to generate a new vision and muster new energy in the service of a truly integral humanism. The greatest service to development, then, is a Christian humanism that enkindles charity and takes its lead from truth, accepting both as a lasting gift from God.” (Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, no. 78)

At-Home Ideas:

At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of ***Evangelization and Apostolic Life*** in your home: Parents influence children



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through the witness of their lived faith expressed in integrity and service. Children are made aware of service and Catholic social teaching through inclusion in service projects when possible. Issues related to justice, peace, respect for life, and other moral issues are discussed routinely around the dinner table or elsewhere at a level understandable to the primary-age child. To make service projects more meaningful for primary children, it is useful to help them process the experience. These projects teach children to think of others and prepare them for serving/evangelizing others through word and action.

Standard 12 **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:** Know critique and apply social justice and stewardship principles to societal situations in a way that acknowledges and affirms the dignity of the human person and community.

- State that Jesus shows us how to live.**
- Recognize that God has entrusted to all human beings responsibility for the world and all its creatures.**
- We are called to be helpful and loving to our parents, brothers, sisters, friends and teachers.**
- Know that as Catholics, we promise to take care of all God's creation.**

Standard 13 **INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with Jews, Muslims, and all faith traditions.

- Show understanding that God loves and cares for all people and we should, too.**
- Understand that we care for all people of different cultures and races at every stage of life.**
- State that Jesus was a Jew who lived and carried out his mission within the Jewish culture and tradition.**

Standard 14 **MISSIONARY VOCATION:** Demonstrate an appreciation for Catholic missionary and evangelization efforts through our parish community, its culture, worship, sacramental life, and service.

- Understand that we are called to share our story of faith in Jesus and invite others to come to know and love him as we do.**
- Tell that God created each person to love him and to love others.**
- Recognize that God gave all of us gifts to share with others.**

The most important task of the catechesis of children is to provide, through the witness of adults, an environment in which young people can grow in faith. (NDC, no. 205)