



Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization Parents' Guide to Grade 5 - 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 intermediate elementary level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of the **Knowledge of the Faith** in your home: The willingness of parents to grow in their understanding of faith issues models for their children the belief that growth in faith is a lifelong process. Parents seek opportunities to share their faith with other adults as well as with their children. Parents take the time necessary to answer informal faith questions as they arise or research unknown answers with the child, using Scripture or the Catechism of the Catholic Church when appropriate. Families actively participate in the life of the Catholic faith community.

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.

- Identify the revelation of the **Trinity** in the story of Jesus' Baptism in the Gospel of Mark. (Mk 1:9-11)
- Understand that the Church teaches that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man.
- Understand that **faith** is a gift freely given by God and freely received.
- Identify the **marks of the Church: one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic.**
- Recognize Mary as the **Immaculate Conception.**
- Define the **Immaculate Conception:** that from the first moment of her conception, Mary – by the singular grace of God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ – was preserved immune from original sin.

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

- Understand meaning of **Gospel**, as the good news proclaimed by Jesus.
- Understand meaning of **evangelist** as the name given to the four writers of the New Testament Gospels who are called Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- State that the **Gospel of Mark** is found in the New Testament.
- Identify the chief characters in the Gospel of Mark especially **Jesus, John the Baptist, Peter, the Twelve Apostles, Judas, and Mary Magdalene.**
- Know that the whole of Christ's life continually teaches us: his birth, hidden years, public life, the mysteries of his death, Resurrection, Ascension, his prayer, and his love of people.
- Identify meaning of **discipleship;** a disciple is a follower of Jesus, one who accepts and assists in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ by both words and deeds.
- Identify significance of the **Transfiguration** of Jesus.
- Understand Jesus’ predictions about his death in the Gospel of Mark. (Mk 8:31-33; 9:30-32; 10:32-34)
- Explain the significance of Jesus’ last meal of the **Passover** with his disciples.



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- Explain the meaning of the [Paschal Mystery](#) in relationship to Jesus' death and Resurrection.
- Understand that Jesus predicts his resurrection in the Gospel of Mark. (Mk 8:31-33; 9:30-32; 10:32-34)

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 this level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of the **Liturgy and Sacraments** in your home: Parents help to deepen their children's understanding of sacraments by regular and active participation in sacramental celebrations followed by conversation about the experience. Participation in communal celebrations of the Sacrament of penance and reconciliation and other opportunities for reconciliation and weekly Sunday liturgy are particularly important for the intermediate child and his or her family.

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.

- Describe the [sacraments](#) as supernatural signs of grace instituted by Christ and given to the Church to strengthen our faith and make us holy.
- Name the [Sacraments of Initiation](#), and describe them and their symbols.
- Describe the [Sacrament of Matrimony](#) as a grace-filled covenant between a man and woman.
- Describe [Holy Orders](#) as a call given by God to men to serve His people and bring them to the sacraments.
- Witness the [Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick](#) and recognize God's healing presence.

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.

- List the [liturgical feasts](#) and seasons of the Church.
- Explain that all forms of [liturgy](#) are the actions of the Holy Spirit intending to make us holy.
- Describe the rite of [Baptism](#).



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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)

At-Home Ideas:

At the intermediate elementary level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Morality** in your home: Parents help their children learn to make right choices through dialogue about routine decisions. Respect and appreciation for ourselves and others are communicated when parents show respect and appreciation for their children. Participation in the responsibilities of family life teaches intermediate students the value of Christian service and a wholesome moral life. It can not be emphasized enough, that good moral and apostolic actions by the parents teach children how to act.

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

- Explain **morality**.
- Identify that our conscience helps us to know what is right and to do what we believe is right.
- Identify the eight **Beatitudes** as Jesus' teaching about the **Kingdom of God** and moral goodness.
- Identify moral goodness with **justice** and **stewardship**.
- Explain what virtues are and how they are acquired.
- Name and explain the four **Cardinal Virtues**: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.

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.

- Acknowledge that from the first moment of new life, at conception, a unique, unrepeatable human being is created and loved by God.
- Identify moral goodness with justice and stewardship.
- Illustrate how we should respect all people, no matter how different they are from us (for example: by race, culture, or age).
- Give examples of how social justice principles can be applied to inform and critique both personal and societal situations.
- Explain why we are called to participate in outreach activities that reach out to the poor, the lonely, and the suffering as Jesus did.
- Understand that the Church – one, holy, catholic, and apostolic – is the People of God, called together by the Holy Spirit
- Describe how the Church is the sacrament of Christ in the world.
- State the seven key themes or principles of Catholic Social Teaching (See Appendix #2 for a listing)



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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 this age, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Prayer** in your home: Parents speak most clearly about the importance of prayer in life when their children see them pray. Your example speaks volumes that words can not match. The prayer life of children is enriched by praying at home and at regular Catholic faith community celebrations of liturgy and sacraments.

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.

- Pray daily as a way of calling God to mind, remaining in his presence, being in love with him, seeking his guidance, expressing sorrow for sins, seeking his forgiveness, growing in trust of him and simply thanking him. (1Thes 5:17)**
- Recognize sacramental ritual prayers.**
- Construct spontaneous and meditation prayers.**
- Memorize liturgical responses.**
- Lead the Rosary with a group (in class session or at home).**
- Understand that faithfulness to prayer and worship leads to the [grace](#) to lead a moral life.**
- Participate in the church as a celebration of the [Paschal Mystery](#).**

Memorize and recite and lead others in reciting the Rosary. *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**.*

Praying the Rosary & Mysteries of the Rosary [CCC nos. 2678, 2708, cf. 1674]

- **Praying the Rosary**

- a) Hold the crucifix and pray the Apostles' Creed.
- b) Pray the Lord's Prayer when holding each single bead.
- c) Pray the Hail Mary on each bead in a group of three or ten. A group of ten Hail Marys is called a decade of the Rosary.
- d) After each group of Hail Marys, pray the Glory Be to the Father.
- e) Close the Rosary by praying the Hail, Holy Queen.



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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:

These are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Education for Living in the Christian Community** in your home: Children are now capable of taking on more responsibility and ownership of their faith life while still needing clear guidance from parents. Allowing children to participate more fully in the life of the Catholic faith community and highlighting the ways that they live a virtuous life to them helps them to realize that they are blessed by God with gifts and talents to share with others in the community.

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.

- Know that Christ established and sustains here on earth his holy Church, the community of faith, hope and charity, through which he communicates truth and grace to all humankind through his Holy Spirit.
- Show understanding that the Catholic Church is entrusted with the mission of Jesus Christ.
- Identify Peter as the first of the apostles and head of the early Christian community.
- Recognize how the Pope speaks in the name of the Church to all its members and to the world.
- Identify the head of a diocese as a bishop, an archdiocese as an archbishop (who also may be a cardinal).
- Articulate that Holy Orders is the sacrament that provides deacons, priests and bishops to serve the People of God in the Catholic Church.
- Show understanding that all members of the Church belong to the Communion of Saints by reason of baptism.

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.

- Explain that Jesus founded the Catholic Church and named Peter as the rock upon which that Church would be built. (Mt 16:18)
- State that the Catholic Church recognizes that the Pope is the successor of Peter on earth and therefore the leader of the Catholic Church throughout the world.
- Identify that the bishop or archbishop of a diocese is a successor of the Apostles, appointed by the Pope, sign of our unity and shepherd of the particular Church assigned to him.
- Know that some Eastern Christian Churches that do not accept the role of the Pope as the successor of St. Peter and head of the universal Church are called "Orthodox".



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

- Define "sacred" and "precious" as all comes from and belongs to God.
- Describe that God created humans with bodies and souls.
- Explain how **modesty** demonstrates respect for one's body and the bodies of others.
- Explain that human life is sacred from its beginning to its natural end.

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.

- Understand meaning of discipleship.*
- Identify the Sacrament of Baptism as initiation into a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ.**
- Understand that through Baptism all followers of Jesus are called to the ministry of service.**
- Understand that some people are called to the priesthood or religious life, others to married or single life.**

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 this age, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Evangelization and Apostolic Life** in your home: Children are learning to better articulate their faith. Ask your children good questions to help stimulate their thoughts. Ask them in simple ways to begin to integrate the faith life with their everyday life and examples of situations they may encounter with their family or friends. These questions help children see how faith impacts their life and equips them to share their faith in a normal and realistic manner.

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.

- Identify that the Church teaches that we must work for a more just and fair society and world.**
- Explain that human life is sacred from its beginning to its natural end.**
- Compare our adoption as sons and daughters of God through Baptism to adoption into a human family.**
- Define stewardship as responsibility for all God's creation.**



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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.

- Understand that there are many religions but only one God.
- Identify Judaism as the religion of God's covenant with Abraham.
- Identify the religion of Islam as founded on the faith of Abraham.

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

- Realize that disciples of Jesus are not only called to change continually and reform their lives in light of the teaching of Jesus, but to share what they have learned from him in and through the Church with others.
- Show understanding that the Catholic Church is entrusted with the mission of Jesus Christ.
- Explain [evangelization](#).
- Explain "Peace is the work of justice, and the effect of charity."
- Identify places in our world that need our prayers because of issues of injustice, war, and inequality.

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)