



Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization Parents' Guide to Grade 7 - 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.

- Explain what it means to say that God's revelation is "economic": i.e., that God reveals himself over time and in human history.
- Identify God's revelation as the foundation of our faith as Christians.
- Know that the Church continues to interpret the Word of God whether in written form or in the form of **Tradition**.
- Describe how faith is both a personal relationship with God and a free assent to the truth God has revealed.
- State how we as a Church profess our faith together and to the world.
- Describe the natural ways of coming to know God: the world and the human person.
- Articulate that the central mystery of the Christian faith is the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- Describe the **Trinity** as a complete unity without confusing the Persons or dividing the substance of God.
- State that the **Catholic faith** is one and the same everywhere and expressed uniquely in many cultures.
- Express the belief in the **resurrection of the dead** as essential to Christianity.
- State the belief that all the faithful in Christ, living and dead, form the **Communion of Saints**.

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

- Show understanding of God's revealing word in Sacred Scripture as unfolding throughout the Old and New Testaments.
- State the meaning of **divine inspiration** in relationship to biblical authorship.
- Differentiate between divinely inspired truth and literal fact when interpreting Sacred Scripture.



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- Recognize that the Bible has both divine and human authorship initiated by God to reveal the truths God intends.
- State that the Church identifies 73 books in the canon of Scripture.
- Describe the Church as having the authority to teach and interpret Sacred Scripture.
- Show familiarity with the Gospel of Luke by sharing favorite parables from this Gospel. (Lk 5-8, 10, 12, 13-16)
- Identify the Gospel of Luke as a [synoptic](#) gospel.
- Describe the [Infancy Narrative](#) in Luke and its difference from Matthew's account. (Lk 1:1-2:40; Mt 1:18-2:23)
- Recognize in Luke's Gospel Jesus' teaching ministry during his journey to Jerusalem as authoritative and prophetic, particularly in the material unique to Luke in chapters 9-19.
- Describe major themes of the Gospel of Luke (salvation is a joyful surprise; salvation includes everyone; special concern for the poor and needy; Mary as the first disciple.)
- Identify the role and significance of women in the Gospel of Luke. (Elizabeth [Lk 1] , Mary, Anna [Lk 2:36-38] women healed, women as good examples, witnesses to cross [23:27;49] and resurrection [Lk 24-1-11], etc.)
- State that the Gospel of Luke shows the universal mission of Jesus extending from Old Testament promises to the Jews to include the Gentiles.

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 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 Catholic faith 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.

- Describe how Christians participate in the priesthood of Christ, especially through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.
- Describe the Sacrament of Confirmation and the elements of laying on of hands and sealing with oil of [chrism](#).
- Describe the [validity](#) of Sacrament of Matrimony under the following conditions: baptized man and woman, free [consent](#), intention to fulfill [contract](#) for good of spouses, possibility of children and canonical form.
- Recognize the spouses as the ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony through the expression of their marriage [vows](#).
- Describe the validity of the Sacrament of Holy Orders for men who are baptized, prepared through [seminary](#) education, and called by their bishop to be ordained.



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- Identify and describe the three ranks of [Holy Orders: episcopate, presbyterate, and diaconate](#).
- Identify the priesthood as an apostolic call that comes from Jesus Christ, commissioning the apostles to continue to do the work of the Church.

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.

- Describe why every Catholic has the obligation to attend Mass on all Sundays and holy days of obligation.
- Compare/contrast another rite with the Latin Rite, showing catholicity of the Church.
- Describe that the validity of the Mass requires a bishop or his authorized representative (the priest) to officiate at the Mass.
- Describe how feasts of Mary and the saints are incorporated into the liturgical cycle.
- Describe the funeral Mass as a special liturgy of blessing and farewell to the Christian who has died.
- Indicate how Catholics are called to the [liturgical ministries](#).

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 primary or early elementary 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.

- Describe what is meant by: "The dignity of the human person is the foundation of Catholic Christian morality."
- Explain that we identify moral values in the teachings and life of Jesus.
- Differentiate between [original sin, personal sin](#) and [social sin](#).
- Name and practically apply the Theological and Cardinal Virtues.
- Identify the [Fruits of the Holy Spirit](#) as signs of the Christian life. (Gal 5:22-23)
- Engage in moral decision-making.
- Show how the Beatitudes provide the foundation for understanding the moral teaching of Jesus.
- Analyze the relationship between race, prejudice and institutional [racism](#) as [social sin](#).
- Identify the seven [Capital Sins \(deadly sins\)](#) as: pride, avarice, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth.



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- 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.
- Show an understanding that Christian discipleship requires following Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life.
 - Recognize how the Incarnation of Jesus provides a key for understanding the central principle of the dignity of the human person.
 - State the importance of Christians taking an active part in public life and promoting the common good.
 - Recognize that, as members of a Catholic faith community, we have responsibilities that we call stewardship.
 - State how stewardship is important to the spiritual life of the Catholic faith community.
 - State the principles of the social teaching of the Church ([social justice](#)).
 - Identify gifts (time, talents, and treasures) that you have received in your family, and describe what it means to be a good steward of these gifts in the family.
 - Describe world peace as the work of justice and the effect of charity.
 - Understand that Jesus' mission and ministry are continued today through the ministries of the word, worship, community building, and service.
 - Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.
 - Understand that the Scriptures teach us the importance of working for justice, peace, equality, and stewardship in our lives.
 - Understand that Jesus taught us about carrying a cross and living a life of loving service
 - Articulate how service is an essential element of discipleship.

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 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
- Examine our relationship with God through personal prayer in light of the call of all disciples of Jesus to conversion, to repentance and to become like Christ.
 - Affirm that worship belongs to God alone.
 - Recognize the [Liturgy of the Eucharist](#) as the community's central act of [worship](#).
 - Recognize prayer using scripture
 - Identify and examine the elements of the [Lord's Prayer](#).
 - Illustrate how the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary come from [Sacred Scripture](#).
 - Outline the steps for [Lectio Divina](#).

The full texts of the prayers and practices for Catholics are found online as Appendix 2: KEY PRACTICES AND PRAYERS FOR CATHOLICS.



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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:

At the primary or early elementary 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.

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.

- Recognize that the Church is missionary by nature.**
- State that the Church has a special mission to the poor.**
- Show understanding that all the living and dead together form the Communion of Saints in the Church.**
- Locate the part of the [Nicene Creed](#) that describes the Church as [holy](#) and [catholic](#).**
- Recognize that the Church names Mary as Mother of the Church.**
- State the belief that the Church has the power to forgive sins through the sacraments.**
- State that the Rites of the Catholic Church derive from one profession of faith, celebration of the seven sacraments and one hierarchy.**
- Show understanding that a Catholic may fully participate in the liturgies of all the Rites of the Catholic Church.**

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.

- List the Lutheran, Episcopalian, Baptist, Methodist, and Apostolic churches as some of the churches evolved from the time of the Protestant Reformation.**
- 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.**
- Explain that Catholics are called to work and prayer for unity in the Church because Jesus also prayed "that they all may be one".
(Jn 17:20-23)**
- Explain that our respect for other Christians and faiths does not mean that we deny the fullness of the faith Christ taught is found in the Catholic Church.**
- State that our respect for other Christians means that we can both recognize what we share in common but that we also need to be honest about how we differ.**
- Identify that the Eastern Catholic Churches call their sacraments "[mysteries](#)" and Confirmation, "[chrismation](#)."**



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

- Recognize that human rights are based on the equality of all persons resting on their dignity as human persons created in the image and the likeness of God.
- State the meaning of human sexuality as a gift of God meant for married love between a man and a woman.
- Describe human sexuality as being all that makes a person male or female. (physical characteristics and responses, psychological characteristics and emotional responses, social relationships and need for intimacy, intellectual aptitude and attitude, and spiritual perspective)
- Analyze what is needed to live a chaste lifestyle.
- Define and differentiate between abstinence, chastity, and celibacy.
- Understand that sexual attraction is part of God's plan to bring about the purposes of marriage -- unity of the spouses and the procreation of children.
- Recognize that every baptized person is called to lead a chaste life no matter what their state in life.
- Recognize that the Christian response to life is that human life has inherent dignity and one should respect life in all its stages.

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.

- State that the call to religious life in the Church is identified in two forms: active and contemplative.
- Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.

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 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 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.



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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 the Scriptures teach us the importance of working for justice, peace, equality, and stewardship in our lives.**
- Recognize that the Christian response to life is recognition of its inherent dignity and a respect for life in all its stages.**
- Show understanding that the Christian life requires preferential love for the poor.**
- State the conditions for abortion being a grave sin and the need for reconciliation and healing.**

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.

- State how the Church respects all faith traditions.**
- Articulate why other religions must be respected.**
- Understand that the Catholic Church acknowledges her special relationship to the Jewish people. The Second Vatican Council declared regarding Jewish people that "this people remain most dear to God, for God does not repent of the gifts he makes nor of the calls he issues."**
- Describe the role of the rabbi in Jewish education.**
- Show understanding that Jews express their faith in observing the commands of the covenant, reading Sacred Scripture, synagogue worship and family life.**
- Show understanding that Islam is a religion that expresses faith in the one God.**

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.

- Explain why the example of our lives as Christians is as important as what we say about the Gospel of Jesus.**
- Recognize that Jesus gave us the Catholic Church that reflects the unity of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**
- Summarize what Christ is asking of His disciples when He said: "teach them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Mt 28:20)*
- Identify special missionary vocations in the lives of the saints (St. Isaac Jogues, St. Therese of Lisieux, Mother Cabrini and others).*
- Recognize that the Church is missionary by nature.**
- State that the Church has a special mission to the poor.**
- Recognize the theology of stewardship as it relates to distribution and use of resources for missionary work.**

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)