

Sixth Grade

Diocese of Madison Catechetical Standards



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Introduction

Thank you for answering the call of God to be a teacher of the Faith, which involves leading children closer to Christ! Catechesis is the art of teaching the Faith in order to facilitate a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. The teaching should lead to understanding who Christ is in light of God’s word (what He has revealed to us in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition) in order to be changed through His grace and become more and more like Him. Transformed by the working of grace, *“the Christian thus sets himself to follow Christ and learns more and more within the Church to think like Him, to judge like Him, to act in conformity with His commandments, and to hope as He invites us to”* (*On Catechesis in Our Time*, Bl. John Paul II, 20. Hereafter CT). *“The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity”* (CT, 5).

How are catechists to teach in a way that leads children and young people into communion with Jesus Christ?

1. Holiness of life is essential in order for the catechist’s teaching to bring others into intimacy with Jesus Christ. Catechists must first and foremost be witnesses. *“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses”* (Pope Paul VI, EN, 41). Thus, a parish or school catechist must first be a practicing Catholic, that is, *“a Catholic in good standing who participates fully in the worship and life of the Church, and who understands and accepts the teachings of the Church and moral demands of the Gospel, as articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church”* (*Standards For Educators in Catholic Parishes and Schools*, Wisconsin Catholic Conference, 2008, 3). They must also be *“prepared for their apostolate by appropriate catechetical training* (Diocesan Certification) and their spiritual life should be characterized by a *“love of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and of Christ’s Church, our Holy Father, and God’s holy people,”* a personal prayer life, missionary zeal, and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary (See *The National Directory for Catechesis*, pp. 228-229, 231).

2. An overview of Salvation History is to be presented at the beginning of each grade. Each and every teaching of the Faith that follows should be presented in light of this Story of God’s Plan for us (*The General Directory for Catechesis*, 128. Hereafter, GDC). This gives students the context for all the content of our catechesis.

3. The doctrinal content of our standards and thus our overall catechesis is found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which is the *“sure norm for teaching the Faith”* (GDC, 121). All Catholic School administrators, teachers, DRE’s, CRE’s, catechists and Youth Ministers should regularly utilize the *Catechism* when teaching the Faith (GDC, 121).

4. The generous utilization of Sacred Scripture should have a pre-eminent position in all of our catechesis. The students need to know that the teachings of the Church flow from Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition which together constitute the *“supreme rule of faith”* (*Dei Verbum*, 21). When the word of God is spoken, grace is given, and students authentically encounter Jesus Christ. While forming our children in the Catholic faith is an honor and a privilege, we must also acknowledge that this task cannot be accomplished solely through the dedicated efforts of parish priests, catechists, and Catholic school teachers, but resides most importantly in the amount of time and effort parents devote to learning and practicing the faith at home.

Catechetical standards and benchmarks identify the expectations for the formation of Catholic youth and include specific grade level competencies that every youth should know and be able to demonstrate. They are intended to strengthen the partnership between the primary educators of children—the parents—and the supporting educators of children—Catholic parish and school personnel. These standards and benchmarks will assist parents and catechists to work together toward these learning competencies and the creative developing of different curriculum to ensure successful catechesis and thus, most naturally, a deeper *communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ* the Savior of the World.

6th Grade

Characteristics of a 6th grade Child

- ◇ Can vary in behavior and energy level from alert and outgoing to lethargic and lazy
- ◇ Likes now to “hang out” in peer groups
- ◇ May feel like “they don’t fit” are not young children but not quite in adolescence yet
- ◇ Can become easily argumentative, sad, and sensitive due to hormonal changes
- ◇ Is developing loyalty to close friends and highly influenced by peer opinions
- ◇ Is developing increased awareness of the opposite sex but may not have appropriate social skills to express this interest
- ◇ Increased sensitivity to criticism especially in front of peers
- ◇ Beginning to challenge authority
- ◇ Looking for heroes or individuals to emulate in popular culture
- ◇ Is aware of a sense of history – where did they come from
- ◇ Depends on support of the family while wanting at the same time to be independent of the family
- ◇ They have increased physical growth are developing new emotional patterns.
- ◇ They have increased interest in body development, sexual curiosity intensifies and they need to begin taking care of their own bodies (some may be ambivalent to this). They take interest in clothes and things that will improve physical appearance (this has nothing to do with if it actually does improve appearance)!
- ◇ They are very comfortable with abstract reasoning and are interested with historical truths and are beginning to seek the Truth.

Faith & Moral Development Characteristics/Needs

- ◇ Because of self consciousness they need to be led to understand to accept themselves as they are, created in God’s image with the potential to mature into adult with a unique and valuable role in the world and in the Church
- ◇ They are beginning to question and possibly rebel they need reasonable and rational explanations to their questions about the meaning of life.
- ◇ They need to learn to think rationally through things and make moral judgments based on the truth and Christian principles (realizing that each choice or decision they make can cause harm to themselves, their relationship with God and their relationships with others).
- ◇ They have a true sense of History, they need to learn where they came from as a person of faith. They need to learn the good and the bad of the people of God-but always focusing on God’s plan to save us.

- ◇ Pre-adolescents, because of their awareness of themselves, their impulses and their feelings, develop definite ideas about their life work. The catechist should encourage them to learn about vocations and especially consider vocations to priesthood and religious life. Ask questions, “what might God want you to do with your life?”
- ◇ Since these students are beginning to experience the inner “world” of emotions, confusion, indolence, the catechist can help to develop the realization that in every situation we have human temptation and passions, but we also have intellect and will. WE ALWAYS HAVE A CHOICE. They should be encouraged to make virtuous ones.
- ◇ It is necessary to foster in these students the virtue of hope. They have a strong understanding of evil in the world and good that God has done. They should know that with God all things are possible.
- ◇ They need a safe and secure place to ask questions and be heard (and understood). They are trying to integrate all they are learning into the reality of their existence. They need a forum to be accepted and encouraged to love God and make him real in their lives.
- ◇ Peer pressure is huge at this point in their lives, they need to be taught to encourage one another in virtuous and good ways.
- ◇ In teaching them to pray the catechist should remember that learning to pray is much different than learning prayers. They should be encouraged to pray daily. To take their needs to God to listen to him and to take to God the decisions that need to be made in their daily lives. This encouragement to discern indicates to them that God is the Master Architect for their lives and he is invested in all things- he cares even about the smallest details of their lives.

Catechetical Implications

- ◇ As a prime role model for the Children, the teacher of the faith needs to have a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community.

God's Plan of Salvation History

It is very important that before you dive into the curriculum and the catechetical standards that the year be introduced by the Story. The context of the Story of salvation History will provide the proper foundation for the rest of your catechetical instruction. The Story can be taught as a one day lesson, or a week long lesson. Each teacher must make a determination of how long they will take to present the Story to their students. Work in the Textbook should not begin until your students have their story-God's story of Salvation History. An overview of God's Plan of Salvation History is to be presented at the beginning of each year. Please make the presentation appropriate to the grade level.

1. God is a communion of Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The three Persons in one God is the Blessed Trinity. God has no beginning and no end. (CCC 234, 232, 237)
2. God is our Father Who loves us and cares for us. God created each person to be united with Him. (CCC 426, 301, 759, 305, 375, 2014)
3. God created everything out of nothing. (CCC 296-298, 338)
4. God created angels as spiritual beings. Angels are God's messengers. We all have our own personal guardian angel. Our guardian angel keeps constant, watchful care over us and guides us and protects us on our journey to God in Heaven. (CCC 328-329, 331-333, 336)
5. All of the angels were put to a test to see if they would be faithful to God. Lucifer and some of the angels completely rejected God and they became Satan and his demons. (Revelation 12:7-9) (CCC 391-395)
6. God created Adam and Eve in His image and likeness. He created Adam and Eve and the whole human race to know, love and serve Him so that we can be united with Him both here and forever in Heaven. Adam and Eve were united fully with God through sanctifying grace within their souls, a participation in God's Divine Life. (CCC, 362-366, 356-357, 374-376, 1934)
7. Adam and Eve were put to a test to see if they would be faithful to God. Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and they disobeyed God. The first sin of Adam and Eve (the Original Sin) separated them from God. They and all their descendants lost the union with God that they had been created for. They no longer had sanctifying grace within their souls. (CCC 396-400, 402-406, 418)
8. God alone could fix the problem of sin and reunite mankind with Himself. Thankfully, God promised a Savior (Genesis 3:15). Only the Savior could bring us back to the purpose for which we were created being united with God (communion with God). In the Old Testament, God began to form His people through Abraham. Moses was given the Law so that the people knew how to live in order to be faithful to the one true God. The Israelites could not be faithful to the God's Law because they did not have sanctifying grace, a share in God's life, to strengthen them. The prophets told the people to prepare for the Messiah, Who would bring about a salvation which would include all the nations. Through the Savior, God would keep His promise to reunite us with Himself as adopted children. (CCC 410-412, 420-421, 54-64, 2570-2589)
9. Jesus is God. Jesus was born as man on the first Christmas as our Savior. This is called the Incarnation. (CCC 464, 461, 463, 443-445)
10. Mary's "yes" to God to be the Mother of Jesus made our salvation possible. Since Mary is the Mother of Jesus and Jesus is God, we rightly call Mary the Mother of God. (CCC 494-495, 497, 509, 485, 723)

- 11.** Jesus began the foundation of the Church by preaching the Good News, instituting the seven sacraments and establishing the Church with a structure. The structure consisted of the twelve Apostles with Peter as the head. (CCC 763-766, 759, 1114)
- 12.** Jesus suffered, died on the cross and rose on Easter Sunday. Jesus did this to save us from the power of sin and death and to reunite us with Himself. (CCC 612, 616, 619, 629, 639-640, 654)
- 13.** The Church was born from the flow of blood and water from the open side of the crucified Christ: the water of Baptism and the Blood of the Eucharist. (CCC 766)
- 14.** Christ's work of redemption was accomplished primarily by His Suffering, Death, Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven. These four events are called the Paschal Mystery. (CCC 1067)
- 15.** Forty days after the Resurrection Jesus ascended to His Father, which we celebrate on the Ascension. Ten days later, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to remain with us until the end of time. (CCC 665, 731-732, 233)
- 16.** At Pentecost the Holy Spirit strengthened the Apostles to imitate Christ. The Holy Spirit empowered them to administer the Sacraments, to teach what Jesus had taught them and to lead the Church. Pentecost is when we celebrate the public manifestation of the Catholic Church. (CCC 767, 747, 771-773, 1585, 780, 1076)
- 17.** This was the first time that mankind received sanctifying grace, a participation in God's Divine Life, since the original sin of Adam and Eve. We are only able to live the Christian life with the aid of supernatural grace received through the Church by the Sacraments and from actual grace through a life of daily prayer. (CCC 1226-1228, 1265-1266, 747, 1996-2000)
- 18.** Jesus will come again in glory with the Kingdom of God in its fullness. He will judge the living and the dead and those who have chosen to follow Jesus will reign forever with Him. He will bring His Family into full union with Him and put an end to suffering and death forever. (CCC 1040, 1042-1045)

Creed – Profession of Faith

Section One: the Creed pertains to what God, our heavenly Father has revealed about Himself and His Plan for our Salvation (saving us from Sin) and sanctification (making us Holy) through Jesus Christ His Son by the Power of the Holy Spirit. God has acted first. Faith is our response to what God has revealed. These Truths are gathered together in the Creed.

Catholic school/parish catechetical students in the Diocese of Madison will know and understand the fundamental teachings of Jesus Christ in His Church, according to the articles of our Profession of Faith.

A. Understand revelation as God’s action to make Himself known in creation, in his relationship with Israel, and in the Person of Jesus Christ.

1. Know and retell the Story of Salvation History
2. Explain that it is God’s will that we should have access to the Father; through Christ, in the Holy Spirit so that we become sharers in his divine nature. (CCC 51)
3. Identify People of God as those who obediently welcome Revelation as a light for their lives while by "deeds and words" (revelation being realized) they live and grow in that revelation more deeply. (CCC 53, 87,89,94,99)
4. Summarize that the Old Testament covenants find their culmination in the person of Jesus Christ. (CCC 54-66, 71-73)
5. Explain how God used Old Testament prophets to proclaim redemption, purification and salvation. God used them to form his people in the hope of salvation. (CCC 64)
6. Support how the Church accepts and venerates as inspired the canon of Scriptures: 46 books of the Old Testament and the 27 of the New. (CCC 120,138)
7. List and distinguish the names of the Old and New Testament books, with particular emphasis on the four Gospels because they are the principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Savior. (CCC 125-26,128,138)

B. Understand Faith as an assent to God who reveals Himself.

1. Explain that the Church guards and transmits the truth. She is also our mother who first teaches us the language of faith. (CCC 167, 169, 171, 181)
2. Generate a description of revelation: It is an invitation; it calls for a response. Recognize the adequate response is to submit one’s mind and will to God; to give oneself over completely to God. The Bible calls this submission and assent “the obedience of faith.” (CCC 142-43)

C. Understand Sacred Scripture as witness to God's Self-Revelation.

Not at this level.

D. Be familiar with the structure and contents of Sacred Scripture and be able to use it.

1. Retell the following Scripture stories expressing their doctrinal significance in salvation history:

- a. Covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15)
- b. Joseph (Gen. 37 – 45)
- c. Moses / Exodus / Passover / Commandments (Exodus 2:1-11, 23-24; 3; 12; 20)
- d. David (1 Samuel; 2 Samuel)
- e . Jesus giving the keys to the kingdom to Peter (Matthew 16:13-20)

E. Know and understand the articles of the Apostles' Creed.

"I Believe in God the Father"

1. Describe and Illustrate how the fundamental Old Testament revelation comes to Moses at the burning bush: "I AM WHO I AM." And how God further reveals himself in the OT as love and fidelity. (CCC 204-05,210-11, 213-14, 231)
2. Explain that the Blessed Trinity is the central mystery of our faith: we could never have known it if God had not revealed himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (CCC 234,261)
3. Explain the following: God made the world good. By their disobedience, Adam and Eve brought sin and death into the world; but by his obedience, Christ, the new Adam, brings life to the world. He is the son of Mary, the new Eve. (CCC 385, 402, 410-11, 421)

"I Believe in Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God"

4. Explain that "Christ" means "Anointed One." The Father anointed his Son with the Holy Spirit; thus Jesus took on the office of priest, prophet and king. (CCC 436,438,453)
5. Support that "Jesus Christ is true God and true man, in the unity of his divine person; for this reason he is the one and only mediator between God and men." (CCC 480)
6. Illustrate how Mary is our model of faith in giving her "Yes" at the time of the Annunciation. (CCC 494, 511)
7. Defend how Jesus bestowed on Peter a special authority over his Church. (CCC 552-53)
8. Explain that Christ's passion and death merited justification for us. (CCC 617)
9. Explain that Christ is the principle of our resurrection, both now by baptism and in the future in the glorified body of heaven. (CCC 655,658)
10. Explain that the Kingdom of God is already present in mystery in the Church which is the beginning and seed of the Kingdom on Earth. It will not come within history, but only by a final triumph of God over evil. (CCC 669, 671, 677, 680)

“I Believe in the Holy Spirit.”

11. Discover where the Old Testament authors discern the Spirit in creation, the promise of the Holy Spirit, Theophanies, the law, the kingdom, the exile, the expectation of the Messiah, the Servant Songs and the anawim. (CCC 688, 702-708)

“I believe in the Holy Catholic Church”

12. Explain how the Church is missionary by her very nature which was manifested at Pentecost. (CCC 767)
13. Illustrate how the Church is a sign and instrument of God’s communion with all humanity, gathering together people of every land and tongue. (CCC 776,780)
14. Describe how the Church is the Bride of Christ and therefore the mother of God’s children. (CCC 796, 808)
15. Memorize the four marks of the Catholic Church: she is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. (CCC 811, 813-869)
16. Explain how the communion of saints includes the pilgrim Church on earth, those being purified in Purgatory, and the blessed already in heaven. (CCC 954,962)
17. Explain how devotion to Mary is intrinsic to Catholic life, and discuss ways we honor and show devotion to Our Lady. (CCC 971)

“I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins.”

18. Paraphrase that because Christ desires it, the Church is able to forgive any sin, no matter how great. (CCC 979,982)

“I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body.”

19. Recognize that Christ conquered death brought into the world by Adam & Eve and gave it a positive meaning. (CCC 1009-12, 1019)

“I Believe in Life Everlasting.”

20. Explain how those who die in God’s friendship, but not yet completely sinless, are purified in Purgatory before entering heaven and explain why the church prays for souls in purgatory. (CCC 1030, 1032, 1055)
21. Distinguish all the saints in Heaven between those who are canonized and those who are not canonized. (CCC 828, 1023-25)

Sacraments – Celebration of the Christian Mystery

Section two pertains to the way God continues to make available to us His grace won for us by Jesus' saving Death and Resurrection. We receive God's saving grace in the sacraments which are actions of God to bring us into communion with Him and to strengthen us to remain in communion with Him. He has given us a share in His divine life-for no other reason than He loves us. We need to respond to the grace God gives us in the Sacraments.

Catholic school/parish catechetical students in the Diocese of Madison will know and appreciate the centrality of the Eucharist and the importance of the sacraments in the life of Catholics.

F. Understand and participate in liturgical seasons, feasts, and celebrations. (CCC 1076-1199, 1273)

1. Examine how the liturgy honors Mary and the saints. (CCC 1172-3, 1195)
2. Explain that sacraments unfailingly give the grace they signify because Christ is at work in them. (CCC 1127)
3. Distinguish the scriptural basis of all seven sacraments. (CCC 1114; Baptism 1223; Confirmation 1286-89; Eucharist 1341-44, 1356; Confession 1446, 1461, 1485; Anointing of the Sick 1510, 1526; Holy Orders 1575-77; Marriage 1605, 1617)
4. Explain that the sacraments anticipate the coming of the Kingdom of God. (CCC 1130)
5. Explain Christ's work in the liturgy of the Church. (CCC 1111, 1084-1090)

G. Name, define, and describe each of the seven sacraments of the Church and will know how to participate in the celebration of each (CCC Baptism 1210-84, Confirmation 1285-1321, Eucharist 1322-1419, Reconciliation 1422-98, Anointing of the Sick 1499-1532, Holy Orders 1536-1600, Matrimony 1601-66)

1. Connect the blessing of the baptismal water with the events of the Old Testament that prefigure the mystery of Baptism. (CCC 1217-22)
2. Summarize the meaning of the "seal" of Baptism and Confirmation. (Each confer an indelible mark on the soul of belonging to Christ and, therefore, cannot be repeated.) (CCC 1280, 1272-4; 1317, 1304-05)
3. Relate how the Eucharist is prefigured in the Old Testament Passover and the New Testament multiplication of the loaves, but is fulfilled at the Last Supper. (CCC 1334-5, 1337, 1339-40)
4. Connect the examination of conscience with the confession of grave and venial sins. (CCC 1493, 1456-58)

5. Outline the major spiritual effects of the sacrament of Reconciliation. (CCC 1422, 1496)
6. Explain that the purposes of marriage are for the good of the spouses, and the generation and education of children. Marriage also calls each spouse to lead the other to eternal life. (CCC 1601, 1660)
7. Explain that the bishops, as successors of the apostles, share in the apostolic responsibility and mission of the whole church, under the authority of the Pope who is the successor of St. Peter. (CCC 1555-61, 1594)
8. Identify and examine the meaning of the essential elements of Confirmation as anointing on the forehead with chrism, laying on of the minister's hands, and the words "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." Confirmation imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian's soul; for this reason one can receive the sacrament only once. (CCC 1300, 1304-05, 1320)
9. Explain why Confirmation completes Baptism by conferring the Holy Spirit in order to help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words and deeds. (CCC 1303, 1316)
10. Identify RCIA as the form of preparation for non-Catholic adults for Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. (CCC 1247-49)

H. Understand the Eucharist has a special and central place in the life of the Church and in their own lives because it contains the very act of redemption which Jesus accomplished in his life, death, and resurrection. (CCC: 1322-1419)

1. Illustrate how Christ's sacramental presence in the Eucharist is significant for you, in the Church and throughout the world today. (CCC 1380-81)
2. Analyze Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist in John 6. (CCC 1384, 1406)

Morality –Life in Christ

Section three is about how we should respond to Jesus' love by the way we live. As his children, we should live as he has asked. The moral life is not an arbitrary list of rules, but laws of love that help us to know how to live to stay close to Jesus. Living life as Jesus asks us to live leads to true joy and peace.

Catholic school/parish catechetical students in the Diocese of Madison will understand and reflect the dignity of the human person and his vocation to freely know, love and serve God and neighbor. With the help of grace, they will seek holiness by avoiding sin, growing in virtue, and entrusting themselves to the mercy of God.

I. Understand the dignity of every human person stemming from their creation in the image and likeness of God. (CCC 1691-1876)

1. Distinguish the two elements of faith: entrusting ourselves to God and professing the truths He has revealed. (CCC 1814-1816, 1842)
2. Identify ways in which God is calling you to virtue and holiness now. (CCC 1803)
3. Explain that as a temple of the Holy Spirit, each Christian is called to be a saint. (CCC 1695, 1699, 1715)
4. Explain how the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity link us directly to the Trinity. (CCC 1812-13, 1840-41)
5. Explain that mortal sin separates us from God and normally requires the sacrament of Reconciliation for forgiveness. Unrepented, it puts a person in danger of hell. (CCC 1856-61, 1864, 1874)

J. Understand that the human person is made for communion, both with God and the human community. (CCC 1877-1948)

1. Relate the perfect model of love within the Holy Trinity to love between people. (CCC 1878, 1890)
2. Explain how differences of "talents" are part of God's plan and call for sharing, while sinful inequalities remain contrary to the Gospel. (CCC 1936-38, 1946-47)
3. Explain how we are social by nature and find fulfillment only with others and how authority is as natural as society and ultimately comes from God. We are meant for community. (CCC 1897-99, 1918-20)

K. Understand that wounded by sin, man needs salvation by God who comes to him in Christ who teaches us the law of love and recreates us in his image through the gift of his grace. (CCC 1949-2051)

1. Personalize natural law (a moral law that can be known in principle by every person by reason). (CCC 1954-1960)
2. Connect natural law and its expression in the Ten Commandments. (CCC 1955)
3. Recite the precepts of the Church and relate them to their own lives. (CCC 2041-2043)
4. Discuss how holiness can only be achieved through self-denial and spiritual battle and why these means are necessary to make spiritual progress toward living the peace and joy of the Beatitudes. (CCC 2015, 2029)

L. Understand how to judge the morality of acts and how the conscience is properly formed. (CCC 1730-1802)

1. Discuss ways we witness to the dignity of the human person by following the moral law. (CCC 1706, 1713)
2. Identify and explain the three sources of moral decision-making: object, intention, and circumstance, and why each source must be good, for the act to be good. (CCC 1750-60)
3. Explain how we are to form our conscience well: following the Word of God, the Church's teaching, the advice of mature persons, prudent judgment and the help of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1783-85, 1788, 1794, 1798, 1802)
4. Explain why we "must always obey the certain judgment of [our] conscience", even if our conscience is in error which may not be our fault. (CCC 1790-91, 1793, 1801)

M. Understand the Ten Commandments. (CCC 2052-2557)

1. Explain how Jesus reaffirmed and fulfilled the Ten Commandments. (CCC 2053)

1st Commandment

2. Explain how the right to religious liberty is part of human dignity. (CCC 2104-08, 2137)

2nd Commandment

3. Recognize that oaths should be taken only when necessary and must be truthful. (CCC 2153-55, 2164)

3rd Commandment

Not at this level

4th Commandment

4. Explain that a family is formed by a man and a woman, united in marriage, and their children; and why we say it exists before the state. (CCC 2202)

5th Commandment

5. Define direct euthanasia and explain that whatever its forms or motives, it is murder. (CCC 2276-77, 2324)
6. Define and explain terrorism and torture, and why they are always gravely wrong. (CCC 2297)

6th Commandment

7. Explain that marital relations are a noble and honorable gift from God with two ends that cannot be separated: the good of the spouses and the transmission of life. (CCC 2362-63, 2369)

7th Commandment

8. Recognize that the seventh commandment forbids any misuse of another's goods including "deliberate retention of goods lent or of objects lost", business fraud, paying unjust wages, and forcing up prices by taking advantage of the ignorance or hardship of another. (CCC 2409, 2454)
9. Recognize that the seventh commandment requires us to keep promises and contracts. (CCC 2410-11)
10. Recite and explain the spiritual works of mercy. (CCC 2447)

8th Commandment

11. Explain why Catholics must bear witness to their faith and why the highest degree of this truthfulness is found in martyrdom. Identify and give a report on a Christian martyr (CCC 2471-74, 2506)
12. Explain that the seal of the sacrament of Penance is a secret that must never be broken. (CCC 2490, 2511)

9th Commandment

13. Explain "purity of heart" and how it is achieved (with God's grace, by the practice of temperance, the virtue of chastity and by prayer). (CCC 2518-20, 2530-32)

10th Commandment

14. Define envy and explain why this capital sin is the source of many other sins. (CCC 2538-59, 2553)

Christian Prayer

Prayer is an essential way we respond to God who loved us first. Prayer is necessary if we are to know God personally and to do His will. Living the Christian Life is almost impossible without prayer.

Catholic school/parish catechetical students in the Diocese of Madison will understand the revelation and tradition of the Catholic life of prayer.

N. Understand what prayer is and the revelation of prayer. (CCC 2559 – 2649)

1. Relate Old Testament figures (like Abraham) as models of prayer. (CCC 2570-72, 2592)
2. Defend that Jesus' prayer reaches its culmination on the Cross. (CCC 2605-06)
3. Create a personal prayer of adoration. (CCC 2628)

O. Understand the Catholic Christian tradition of prayer (CCC 2650 – 2696)

1. Pray in adoration of the Blessed sacrament. (CCC 2628)
2. Recite traditional songs and prayers that accompany Benediction. (GIRM)
3. Describe the historical connection between the rosary and the psalms. (CCC 2596)

P. Understand and experience the Catholic Christian life of prayer (CCC 2697 – 2758)

1. Connect the Psalms to a life experience. (CCC 2585-89, 2596-97)
2. Explain how daily prayers help to obtain the rhythm of prayer encouraged by the Church. (CCC 2629)
3. Recite Morning Prayer (Canticle of Zachariah) and Evening Prayer (Magnificat). (CCC 2619, 2671)
4. Participate in guided meditation. (CCC 2705-06, 2723)

Q. Understand the Lord's prayer as a summary of the whole gospel and its many uses within the Christian life (CCC 2759 – 2865)

Not at this level.

Prayers to Learn

Children in Sixth Grade should be introduced to the following Prayers and should be able to re-cite:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Sign of the Cross | 12. Prayer to prepare for Mass, Prayer for
after Communion |
| 2. Our Father | 13. Memorare |
| 3. Hail Mary | 14. Hail Holy Queen |
| 4. Glory Be | 15. All Mysteries of the Rosary |
| 5. Morning Offering | 16. Angelus |
| 6. Prayer before meals | 17. Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel |
| 7. Prayer to Guardian Angel | 18. Litany of the Sacred Heart |
| 8. Act of Contrition | 19. Litany to the Blessed Virgin |
| 9. Apostles & Nicene Creed | 20. Divine Mercy Chaplet |
| 10. Mass responses | |
| 11. Stations of the Cross | |

Children of this age group should be participating in the following forms of prayer:

1. Spontaneous Prayer
2. Gestures: Genuflection, Sign of the Cross, blessing oneself with Holy water
3. Song as prayer
4. Reflection: thinking about God and listening while reading from Scripture
5. Silence: at Mass or in the Church (beginning to develop a sense of reverence)
6. Prayer Journaling
7. Participate in a Rosary: Know all Mysteries
8. Participate in Devotions: Stations of the Cross, Novenas - Sacred Heart of Jesus
9. Saint intercession
10. **Adoration**
11. Litanies
12. Examen

Children of this age should know and recognize the following sacramentals:

1. Crucifix
2. Bible
3. Introduce the Catechism
4. Images of Jesus & Mary
5. Images of Saints, Icons
6. Relics
7. Rosary—as a way to pray with Mary
8. Items in the Church: Tabernacle, Presider's chair, Holy Water font, Crucifix, candles (method of prayer)
9. Items used at Mass: vestments, chalice, ciborium, hosts, wine, ambo, altar, purificator, corporal, cruets, thurible, incense, lectionary, sacramentary

Vocations

From the moment of our baptism, God has a special plan for each of us. God calls us to life in Christ, in order that, with Christ, we may offer our whole life in love of God and our neighbor. At our confirmation, God strengthens and increases that the life of the Holy Spirit within us, so that we will have the inspiration and strength to respond to God's call.

The official definition of the word vocation according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church is: The calling or destiny we have in this life and hereafter. God has created the human person to love and serve him; the fulfillment of this vocation is eternal happiness (CCC 1, 358, 1700). Christ calls the faithful to perfection and holiness (CCC 825). The Vocation of the laity consists in seeking the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will (CCC 898). Priestly and religious vocations are dedicated to the service of the Church as the universal sacrament of Salvation (873, 931).

In Sixth Grade the children should be taught the church's teaching on vocations as an independent session or incorporated into a daily plan. More specifically, our personal vocation is not mainly what we choose to do but primarily what we have been chosen for. God has given each person distinct gifts. We seek to discover the adventure of life, which God has planned for us in order to use these gifts to serve the Church and the world. Christ calls each person to follow Him in a special way as a **married person**, a **consecrated person**, a **deacon** or **ordained priest**. These are personal vocations by which we respond to live God's primary call, the vocation to love God (Holiness of Life).

Bible & Catechism

The Sixth grade standards and textbooks focus on the Old Testament and God's plan for salvation history. In Sixth grade the students should review and be comfortable looking up scripture and reading the bible on their own. They should be using scripture as part of the instruction and homework but also taught to read scripture as a way to pray and encounter God. Lectio Divina is introduced at this age to deepen their understanding of how God speaks to us in his word. Each student should have their own bible at this point in their instruction.

Sixth grade students should have a familiarity with the Catechism as the book that contains the teaching of the Church. The Catechism may be too difficult for 6th graders to read, but the YOUCAT would be an excellent way to show the sixth graders the general outline of the Catechism: Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer.

Prayers

Divine Mercy Chaplet

1. *Begin with the Sign of the Cross,*
2. *Our Father*
3. *Hail Mary*
4. *The Apostles Creed.*
5. *Then on the Our Father Beads say the following: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.*
6. *On the 10 Hail Mary Beads say the following: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*
7. *(Repeat step 2 and 3 for all five decades).*
8. *Conclude with (three times): Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*