

Grade 3

To deepen the child's understanding of the Church and to help the child experience the Church as a Christian community.

Six Tasks of Catechesis			
Task 1: Catechesis Promotes Knowledge of Faith.			
Content	Catechism (paragraph number)	Scripture	Living the Christian Faith
3.1.1 God is the Creator of all that is seen and unseen. God created each person in His image. He desires that each person know and love Him in this life and be with Him forever in heaven .	279, 316, 358-359	Genesis 1:1-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make up a litany of creation in which the children thank God for all His gifts (for example: For the sun and moon, we thank you Lord...for examples see Daniel 3:58-81). • List ways that the students can care for the gift of God's creation, i.e. care for a pet, clean up a yard, don't litter, etc.
3.1.2 There are three persons in the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.	810	John 14:9, 10, 16, 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the image of the pretzel: the three spaces of the pretzel symbolize the Trinity, and the dough strips represent the praying hands.
3.1.3 As the Trinity exists in Heaven, so do these three persons in one God live within the life of the Church.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a tour of a church to find images of the Trinity.
3.1.4 God sent His Son, Jesus Christ , to earth; he was born in the city of Bethlehem . He was alive on earth for 33 years. During this time, Jesus revealed who God is and how God desires all people to live their life on earth.		John 3:16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how we can send a message to a loved one; help them come to the conclusion that is best to send it in person, so God sent His Son in person to reveal His love. • Show a map of the Holy Land and find the city of Bethlehem to help the children understand that Jesus was born in a particular time and place.
3.1.5 Jesus is the Son of God . He is fully human and fully divine. He is truly God and truly man.	479-483	Mark 1:10-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare the life of Christ as a child to their own lives. • Name ways that He showed His divinity (miracles)
3.1.6 Jesus is consubstantial with the Father. This means that He and the Father are one in nature.			
3.1.7 Jesus came to earth to save each person from their sins. The very name of Jesus means 'God Saves'. This is why Jesus is called our Savior .	430	Luke 4:16-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus taught by using parables; choose a few of His parables to discuss and dramatize. • Draw a parable with a partner, fold a piece of paper in half and each child will draw their picture on half and describe it as they illustrate.

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3.1.8 Mary of Nazareth is Jesus' mother. Joseph is Jesus' foster father. They are called the Holy Family .	437	Luke 2:1-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find a sacred image of Mary and the Infant/Child Jesus and discuss what the work of art communicates to the student (how do they feel, what do they see, what do you think Mary and baby Jesus are thinking/feeling).
3.1.9 All human people, except Jesus and Mary, were born with original sin due to the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. During life each person has the choice of being good, growing in grace and love or refusing to be loving.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a guided drawing to illustrate the roads of life; create a fork in the road. One is the road to happiness and heaven and other to sadness. The road to sadness is broader and is the road of sin and turning away from God. The road to perfect happiness is the narrow road to God. "Which road will you take?"
3.1.10 Jesus suffered , and died on the Cross. On the third day He rose from the dead. This is known as the Resurrection. The Resurrection is celebrated on Easter Sunday.	629, 655	Luke 24: 1-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect on an image of Christ's crucifixion or a crucifix and remind the students why Jesus suffered. Use the parable of the seed (John 12:24) to explain that a seed must die in order to have new life. Student's plant a seed (corn or wheat) in soil. Make a popsicle cross with the words "He is Risen".
3.1.11 After a period of time on earth with His disciples Jesus ascended into Heaven.			
3.1.12 On the fiftieth day after the Resurrection the Church celebrates Pentecost . At Pentecost the apostles were gathered with Mary. The Holy Spirit was manifested and given to the Church in a very special way.		Acts 2:1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain that the Holy Spirit guides us to follow Jesus more closely: illustrate a banner with each gift of the Holy Spirit.
3.1.13 At the end of time there will be the last judgment . All people, whether good or bad, will be gathered before Christ. In the presence of Christ the truth of each person's life with God will be laid bare. Only God knows the day or the hour.	1038-1039	Matthew 25:31-33 Matthew 13:36-43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and reflect on the parable in Matthew 25 where Christ teaches that what we do to the least of His people we do to Him. Write a love note to God to tell Him of the deeds each student will do for another that week.
3.1.14 Each person must face the end of their earthly life. This is called death. Death is a result of the sin of Adam and Eve. Through Christ and the Church, death is transformed into a blessing .	1007-1009	Romans 6:23	

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<p>3.1.15 At the time of death we encounter Christ and experience the particular judgment. Depending upon how we have lived our lives, we will experience our final destiny which may be immediate or eventual eternal union with God or immediate eternal separation from God.</p>	1022	Matthew 25:45-46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glue an image of the face of Jesus on a piece of construction paper; on another piece of construction paper cut out a small opening; staple the two together so that the top one can still be lifted. The top paper represents our limited view of Jesus on earth by faith, and when the paper is lifted we can see God face to face.
<p>3.1.16 Those who die united to God through the grace of a faithful life will experience Heaven. Heaven is a perfect life in communion and love with the Trinity, the Blessed Mother, all the angels and saints.</p>	1023-1024	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on an image of heaven with the students (suggested artist Blessed Father Angelico).
<p>3.1.17 Those who die in God's grace but still must undergo purification will experience purgatory. This is where one must be purified of sin and its effects so as to enter into the eternal Kingdom of God forever. On All Soul's Day we remember the members of the Church who have died and may still be in purgatory.</p>	1030-1031	1 Peter 1:6-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This example was used by the late Fulton J Sheen who explained it this way: Let's say you had a board with nails hammered into it (the nails representing sins). Now, if Jesus forgave you your sins, the nails would immediately be removed, however, the board would still have the indentions where the nails were. Reparation is the process by which we fix the damage caused by our sins. In God's great mercy, he gives us a place to make that reparation if we have not done so by the end of our lives. We call that place purgatory.
<p>3.1.18 Those who have chosen in life to reject God are without love. They choose to exclude themselves from communion with God for all eternity. This eternal life without God is called hell. Hell is the state of separation from God because each person is born with a desire for God. For this reason, pain of hell is sometimes likened to fire; however, the 'fire' of hell is not physical, material fire.</p>	1033-1034	1 John 3:14-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have students draw a picture of how they feel when they choose not to do good.
<p>3.1.19 Christ founded the Church, and consequently He is the head of the holy Church.</p>			
<p>3.1.20 The story of the Church on earth is the story of God's love for His people.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many cultures together make up the unity of the Church. • Create a cut out of a person; students will color each one to represent a different culture; glue or tape them together to represent the oneness.

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3.1.21 Jesus chose the Church to be His continued presence on earth.	567		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The students can create a list of the many places where Christ is present in His Church (i.e. Eucharist, Holy Bible, neighbors, etc.)
3.1.22 Jesus did not want the apostles to be alone. At the Last Supper He promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with them always.		John 14:15-20	
3.1.23 The Holy Spirit came to the apostles at Pentecost . This was the beginning of the Church. The Holy Spirit was sent to guide us.	2623, 731	Acts 2:1-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read through the account of Pentecost and emphasize the uses of fire and the symbolism of it being used to light the way, give zeal and courage. The speaking in tongues represented the worldwide mission of the Church. Reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives as helping us to have courage and strengthen our faith. Create a paper cut out of a tongue of fire and have the children write a prayer for courage to the Holy Spirit on it.
3.1.24 The Church brings us God's love; most especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist . We become members of the Church at the time of our Baptism and are fortified through Confirmation . These are the Sacraments of Initiation .	804-805		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role-play a baptism; discuss the signs and symbols of baptism. Each of these sacraments unites people; baptism unites all Christians; Confirmation unites each individual more fully to Christ; and Eucharist unites all the faithful in the Body of Christ. Make a tri-fold to illustrate this unity, the effects, and words of the sacrament.
3.1.25 The other groups of sacraments are Sacraments of Healing (Penance or Reconciliation , and Anointing of the Sick) and Sacraments of Service (Matrimony and Holy Orders). They bring God's grace into the lives of all who receive them and believe in Christ and His Church.	805	Luke 8:40-42; 49-56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect on the story of the healing of Jairus' daughter (How did Jairus feel? Why did Jesus heal her?) Have students write a thank you note to Jesus as if they are Jairus. Have student's list ways that the sacraments of service continue Jesus' work. Discuss how both involve making vows for life. View clips of an ordination or wedding vows.
3.1.26 Through the Church, God leads people towards eternal life. It is through Christ that the way of salvation is offered to all people.	846	Matthew 11:28-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the Scripture; dramatize how our faith lightens our burden. Children can carry a heavy load of books and Christ takes that burden from us through His death on the cross. Read the poem "Footprints"; Create bookmarks with the poem for the children to decorate.

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3.1.27 The Church is described in various ways. Because it reflects the mystery of God's love for all people, it can only be explained with various images. One image is the people of God .	779		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain and demonstrate the diversity in the Church by using a woven blanket or piece of tapestry; explain the value of having multiple talents and gifts.
3.1.28 It is important to know that Church (with a capital "C") is the Church founded by Jesus. The other church (a small "c") is a building in which the community gathers.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many make one: Use examples of how many objects make one large item (several letters make a word, many drops of water fill a glass, many paper clips make a chain) illustrate the need for each individual part to make the whole.
3.1.29 Another image of the Church is the Body of Christ , human and divine, a mystery that is believed only by faith.		2 Corinthians 6:16	
3.1.30 The Church is also a community of people who are united in Christ. This union goes beyond only those members of the Church on earth. The communion of saints is the union with all the faithful on the earth, the souls in purgatory, and the saints in heaven.			
3.1.31 The Church refers to the people gathered together to give praise and thanks to God, listening to His Word and receiving His Body and Blood in the Eucharist .	777		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help the children understand the diversity of the people in the Church; sing a song in another language or show a video clip of Mass happening in another language or country.
3.1.32 The Church teaches constantly how to be holy . In the Bible, the life of Jesus shows how a person can live a holy life.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the children in a Bible activity that has them find certain books, chapters, and verses. • Demonstrate how we come to know Jesus through the Bible.
3.1.33 The Church teaches people to understand God's will through the Bible and Tradition .			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have children act out stories that illustrate people being obedient to God's will; Abraham's obedience, Moses' obedience, or when Mary said Yes to the Angel Gabriel
3.1.34 The visible head of the Church is the Pope . The invisible head of the Church is Christ. The Pope is the Bishop of Rome and the successor of Saint Peter.	782, 807, 880, 882,	Matthew 16:18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find Rome on a map of the world. • Create a bulletin board to illustrate that the Catholic Church is a world Church. • Find images of famous worldwide churches with Saint Peter's Basilica in the center.
3.1.35 Saint Peter became the first pope. Jesus called Peter to continue to lead the Church on earth. Through the Pope, Christ continues to live and act in and for the Church.		Matthew 16:19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study the life of Saint Peter. • Find an image of the statue of Saint Peter holding a key. Retell the story of Jesus giving Peter the keys to heaven. Cut-out paper keys and have the students write one way they can be a follower of Christ.

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<p>3.1.36 The Pope is assisted by the bishops. The name of the present Pope is _____. The name of our present Bishop is _____.</p>	883, 884		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show an image of the current pope and bishop. • Research the life of the Holy Father to tell students a little about him. • Create a timeline of important events in his life.
<p>3.1.37 Most bishops are the head of a diocese. The bishop is assisted in the diocese by priests. A diocese is divided into parishes. Normally a parish is run by a pastor who is a priest.</p>		Acts 20:28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name the parish priests and some of their roles/jobs in the parish. • Ask the pastor to visit the classroom. • Help the students understand how they are able to contact the priest (mail a letter to tell the priest about themselves).
<p>3.1.38 There are four marks which describe the Catholic Church. The first mark is that the Church is One. This means the Church believes in one God. The Church believes in one Lord; and He creates unity between all of the Church's members.</p>	811 813-815, 866	John 17:20-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help the students understand that marks are the "signs" of the Church. • Use a cross as a visual to help remember the marks; write one mark on each arm of the cross. Recite together, one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. • Explain that the students are individuals, yet one class. Have them come up with things they do together as one class.
<p>3.1.39 The second mark of the Church is that She is Holy. Christ died in order to make the Church holy. Through the Church all sinners find holiness through Christ. The Church honors Mary who is all-holy and the saints who have lived holy lives through the Church.</p>	823-829, 867		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how people in the Church are living holy lives. • Share some lives of the saints.
<p>3.1.40 The third mark of the Church is catholic. Because of her union with Christ the Church proclaims the fullness of the faith to all nations. Thus, the meaning of the word catholic is universal.</p>	830-831, 868	Matthew 28:19-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find traditions from other ethnic groups that show the Catholic Church being lived all through the world. • Discuss how to make others feel welcome in your school, home, or group of friends.
<p>3.1.41 The fourth mark of the Church is that she is apostolic. The Church was founded upon the twelve apostles. The word apostles come from the Greek word for "to send forth". Christ governs the Church through the Pope and all the bishops.</p>	869	Ephesians 2:19-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show an image of a church which has 12 pillars symbolizing the foundation of the apostles. • Students trace their footprint; have them write how they spread the good news of God (being a good sport, including someone at recess, etc.) • Students create a symbol that can stand for one of the four marks of the Church and shares it with the class.

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3.1.42 Within the Church there are many vocations . Each vocation is meant to be the fulfillment of God's plan for each person's life and serve the needs of the Church.	848; 944	1 Corinthians 12: 4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a booklet to illustrate the main vocations in the Church. • Create a bulletin board dedicated to vocations; "Fishers of Men"- add a picture of many varieties of vocations.
3.1.43 A priest is ordained through the Sacrament of Holy Orders . He has a special relationship to the bishop. God gives all priests a special grace to be able to celebrate the Eucharist which changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ .	1563	Luke 10:1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the students aware of the seminarians of the diocese by hanging a poster or praying for them. • Consider adopting a seminarian; write him letters and pray for him regularly as a class.
3.1.44 A deacon receives the sacrament of Holy Orders. He is ordained to serve as Christ served. Assisting at liturgy, preaching and assisting the bishop in ministries such as to the poor and needy, prisoners and the sick.	1570		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show images of the difference between a deacon and priests vestments. A deacon wears a dalmatic that is long wide sleeved tunic and a priest wears a chasuble that has no sleeves. A deacon's stole is worn only over one shoulder diagonally across his chest and the priest wears his stole over both shoulders.
3.1.45 There are two types of deacons; the permanent diaconate and the transitional diaconate. The permanent diaconate is an ordained minister who can be married. The transitional diaconate usually lasts a year before a seminarian is ordained to the priesthood.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite a deacon to come and speak about their role in the Church. • Make a chart to list the role of the deacon vs. the priest. • Emphasize that a deacon cannot consecrate the Eucharist or forgive sins, but he can baptize, read the Gospel and give homilies, and witness marriages.
3.1.46 The laity are all the baptized who seek God through their life in the world. All laity are called to holiness and have their own call to serve the people of God. Some laity are called to leadership in the Church.	897, 898	Philippians 1:21-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name some roles of the laity in leadership positions- (readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, music ministers). • Have one of these members come in to talk about the training involved in becoming a leader in the Church.
3.1.47 Consecrated life is a way of "special dedication to God rooted in baptism." Men and women who live the consecrated life follow Christ more closely, giving themselves to God and serving His Kingdom in charity .	916		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show images of Sisters and Brothers in different ministries of the Church. • Write to a Sister or Brother or invite one for a visit.

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Six Tasks of Catechesis			
Task 2: Catechesis Promotes knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and the sacraments.			
Content	Catechism (paragraph number)	Scripture	Living the Christian Faith
3.2.1 The liturgy is the celebration of the life of Christ. As members of God's family, we <i>remember</i> why Christ came to earth. We <i>affirm</i> that Christ, <i>in our everyday life</i> , is central to the life of a believing Christian . The Liturgy helps us to hope for the future that we will continue to make Christ central in our lives so that we may look forward to eternal life with God in heaven.	1066-1070		
3.2.2 Liturgy calls us to fully participate with our minds and hearts in the worship of God.	1071		
3.2.3 The sacraments are the means through which God gives His life to each person through grace.	1121		
3.2.4 The Sacraments are an outward sign of God's love and mercy .			
3.2.5 Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation which brings us into a special relationship with Jesus. They are the foundations of Christian life.	1212, 1275	Acts 2:38 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26	
3.2.6 Baptism unites us with the life of Jesus; Eucharist feeds us with Jesus' Body and Blood; Confirmation strengthens us through the Holy Spirit.	1212	Matthew 3:11	
3.2.7 BAPTISM is new life in Christ. It is necessary for eternal life with God and makes us members of the Catholic Church.	1277		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a list of promises that they can make as a class that shows they are followers of Jesus.
3.2.8 Baptism is the gateway to the other sacraments.	1213, 1263		
3.2.9 At each person's Baptism they are immersed in water or water is poured over their head.	1278		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help the children to understand why water is used as the sign of baptism; cleansing and life giving.
3.2.10 During the Baptism the priest says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Amen."			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind them that when they bless themselves with holy water as they come into the Church to remind them of their Baptism.
3.2.11 At Baptism each person receives a special sign on their soul. Baptism is received only once.	1280		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a prayer service in which the children renew their baptismal promises. Have a baptismal candle and holy water; possibly give them a small battery operated candle to remind them of their baptism. As they receive the candle say, "Receive the light of Christ".

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3.2.12 CONFIRMATION confirms and strengthens the grace we receive at Baptism.	1303; 1316-1317		
3.2.13 At Confirmation the person receives the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit . The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Piety, Fortitude, Fear of the Lord, and Counsel.	1395	Acts 1:8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give scenarios from the student's lives that show them using the gifts (or asking them what gifts they see in each scenario). • Have the students pick a gift that they would like to have strengthened and lead them in a prayer to the Holy Spirit to ask for this gift.
3.2.14 At Confirmation the Holy Spirit comes down on each person. This occurs when the Bishop anoints the head with Holy Chrism and says, "be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."	1299-1300	Acts 8: 14-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Holy Spirit makes the person being confirmed stronger in their faith.
3.2.15 Through Confirmation we are bound more firmly to Christ and the Church.			
3.2.16 This sacrament strengthens us to be witnesses to our Christian faith. It is received only once.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send cards welcoming newly confirmed members of the Church.
3.2.17 RECONCILIATION or PENANCE is a gift to help each person strengthen their relationship with God because of inclination to sin.	1425	Matthew 9:12-13 Genesis 37, 39-45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read excerpts of the Joseph story; think about how Joseph felt when he saw his brothers, what other choice could he have made, and how did he feel after he forgave them. • Create a coat of many colors out of colored construction paper.
3.2.18 God gives each person the free will to choose what is good or what is evil. Each person fails to choose what is good at some time in their life and sins.			
3.2.19 Personal sin is any word, action, or desire contrary to God's law that we ourselves choose to commit.	1730, 1790		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student draws a picture illustrating his/her friendship with God, then cut it up like a puzzle to demonstrate how sin can destroy that friendship, glue it back together to show how Reconciliation can restore our friendship with Him.
3.2.20 Each personal sin offends God, and hurts the person, but also wounds the People of God, the Church.	1496-1497		
3.2.21 God is gracious and He gives us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to reconcile us with Him and with the community.			
3.2.22 Before each person receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation they must examine their conscience .	1493, 1785		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the children in an examination of conscience; use the 10 commandments as a guide.

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3.2.23 To receive this Sacrament three things are necessary: sorrow for sin (contrition), confessing our sins, and the intention of making reparation for them. The priest absolves sins “in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”.	1491		
3.2.24 Each person must make reparation by doing the act of penance given by the priest.			
<p>3.2.25 How to make a good confession: When entering the confessional kneel or sit and wait for the priest to speak. The priest will begin with “In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” Next, the priest will invite the penitent to confess their sins. At this time the penitent responds, “Bless me father, for I have sinned. It has been _____ weeks/months since my last confession. My sins are _____.</p> <p>Once the penitent has confessed his or her sins the priest will give direction which will help the penitent to avoid sin in the future.</p> <p>Next he will ask the penitent to pray the Act of Contrition. If the penitent does not know the whole prayer or forgets it he or she can tell the priest and the priest will help.</p> <p>After the penitent prays the Act of Contrition, the priest will extend his hand and pray the Prayer of Absolution. Once he is finished with this prayer he will say “go in peace” or something similar; the penitent will reply, “Amen.”</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have students partner up and role play going to confession.
3.2.26 If a person gets confused at any point during their confession they should let the priest know and the priest will help them to make a good confession.	1407	Luke 22:17-20	
3.2.27 Receiving Jesus in Holy Communion continues our lifelong relationship with Jesus that began at our Baptism.	1415		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress that we can attend Mass daily, however, that does not replace the need to go to Mass on Sunday.
3.2.28 At Mass we gather together as God's family. Christ acts through the priest as we celebrate the Mass. The Mass includes:	1346, 1348, 1408	Matthew 18:20	

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3.2.29 Liturgy of the Word: The Liturgy of the Word includes readings from the Old and New Testaments and a homily . The Liturgy of the Word is an encounter with Christ through the Word of God proclaimed.	1349	1 Thessalonians 2:13	
3.2.30 Liturgy of the Eucharist; Jesus gives Himself to each person as the Bread of Life. Jesus is really and truly present , Body and Blood in the Eucharist.	1391-1392	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	
3.2.31 At the epiclesis the priest asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit so that the bread and the wine will become the Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ.	1353		
3.2.32 At the consecration the priest raises the bread and wine in his hands and says the Eucharist Prayer . He prays, "this is my body, this is my blood" and at that moment bread and wine are changed into the Body of Christ and Blood of Christ. This is what we call Transubstantiation .	1413	Mark 14:22-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the students create a book of the Mass parts using index cards and a binding ring. The students can illustrate and describe each important part.
3.2.33 The Eucharist is a memorial of Christ's life, passion, death and resurrection which becomes present to us at every Mass.	1409		
3.2.34 To receive Christ in the Eucharist, one must be in the state of grace . This means to be free from any serious sins .	1415	1 Corinthians 11:27-29	
3.2.35 Each person is required to fast from food and drink, except water and medicine, for one hour before receiving the Holy Eucharist.	1387		
3.2.36 We are obligated to go to Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation to give praise and worship to God.	1193		
3.2.37 The desire for God lies deeply in the heart of each person and Christ's resurrection is the most significant event of Christ's life on earth. This calls forth in each person the act of belief in what we cannot see. From this there is a moral obligation to worship in gratitude for our salvation.	2174, 2176		

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3.2.38 The Church has a liturgical year . The central focus and mystery of this holy year is the person of Jesus Christ. By following the Church through various seasons of this liturgical year, people are called to continually grow in their understanding of Christ and to follow Him.	1194		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at the liturgical calendar, discuss where it begins in Advent (why?), discuss the different seasons and their meaning, make note of the preparation seasons of Advent and Lent. • Have the children color or create a liturgical calendar (could add an arrow with a brad to show current week).
3.2.39 The liturgical year begins with the Advent season which prepares for the coming of Christ.	524		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an Advent wreath and prayer service weekly. • Create a wreath to take home (e.g. large canning jar lid or paper plate, line it with play dough and add purple and pink candles, greenery, and poinsettia). • Discuss preparing for Christ; list other things we prepare for in life.
3.2.40 The Christmas season celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus fulfills the hope of the Old Testament. The Christmas season ends with the Baptism of Jesus.	436-437	Mark 1:1-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the story of Saint John the Baptist.
3.2.41 Ordinary Time has two periods. The first begins with the Sunday after Epiphany until the beginning of Lent . The second period begins after Pentecost and ends with the Feast of Christ the King.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correlate the green of ordinary time with growing things. This is not an “ordinary” in the sense of boring, but a time to have our relationship with Christ grow.
3.2.42 Lent is the six week preparation time for the celebration of Easter. Lent is a time of penance and sacrifice. It begins with Ash Wednesday .			
3.2.43 It is a Lenten practice to give up something or do something for others. These acts of sacrifice are blessed by God.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a class build a “wall of kindness”; each child writes a random act of kindness on a paper brick; these are attached to the wall or poster.
3.2.44 The Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday. This begins Holy Week which focused on the sufferings and death of Christ.		Matthew 21:1-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray the stations of the cross, draw them, or complete a coloring packet of them.
3.2.45 The Easter season celebrates Christ rising from the dead. It is a joyous time lasting for 50 days.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to Church and look at the Paschal (Easter) Candle; look at the symbols on it and explain their meaning. Usually it includes the year, a cross with the five “darts” to represent Jesus’ wounds, and some images of the Risen Christ. • Explain the meaning of the egg and lily; have the children make Easter lilies from white paper.

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			Trace their hand on paper, cut it out, curl down the fingers to be the petals, fold it in and staple it to a green pipe cleaner.
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Six Tasks of Catechesis			
Task Three: Catechesis Promotes moral formation in Jesus Christ.			
Content	Catechism (paragraph number)	Scripture	Living the Christian Faith
3.3.1 The Church teaches us how to live a moral life. The Greatest Commandment is to love God with all your heart, and with all your soul , and with all your mind, and the second is to love one another as we love ourselves.	2083-2196	Luke 10: 25-28 Luke 6:27-36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a decorative plaque with the words of the Greatest Commandment to be displayed in the home or the classroom.
3.3.2 We show respect for God and others by caring for ourselves and doing our best. We should care for all people, including the unborn and aged, by respecting the life and property of other people.	2318; 2258; 2270; 2276	Luke 10:29-37 John 13:34-35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the story of the Good Samaritan with the children and discuss the messages that Christ is teaching the people.
3.3.3 Through the life of the Church each person receives God's grace which strengthens a person to live a moral life. God's grace is the gift of God's life in each person. This grace will one day lead the person to eternal happiness in Heaven.	1999	John 15:12	
3.3.4 The Ten Commandments teach us how to avoid sin and live holy lives.	2052		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a memory/concentration game out of the commandments; have the commandment number on one card and the words of the commandment on another to be matched.
3.3.5 Going against what Jesus taught is a sin. When we are sorry for our sins, God forgives us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.	1496	Luke 15:11-32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give the children situations and have them think of which Commandments would have been kept or broken in the scenario.
3.3.6 A venial sin is an offense against God. A venial sin does not break our relationship with God.	1855, 1875		
3.3.7 Mortal sin is a serious offense against God, which is freely chosen, willingly and knowingly. Mortal sin destroys God's life within us.	1855, 1874		
3.3.8 For a sin to be mortal all 3 conditions must be met: - It must be a serious offense against God; - You must know it is wrong; and - You must freely choose to do it anyway.	858-1859		
3.3.9 A virtue is a good habit which each person must practice. By practicing virtue we strengthen our will against doing what is wrong and sinful. The two special types of virtues are: Cardinal and Theological.	1803, 1833	Wisdom 8:7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Plant" a virtue garden; when a student sees someone performing an act of virtue, they write it on a paper flower and plant it.

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3.3.10 There are four Cardinal Virtues . They are: prudence, justice, fortitude , and temperance .	1805-1809		
3.3.11 There are three Theological Virtues . They are: faith, hope , and charity .	1812-1829		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a mobile to show the three Theological and the four Cardinal Virtues.

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Six Tasks of Catechesis			
Task Four: Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ.			
Content	Catechism (paragraph number)	Scripture	Living the Christian Faith
3.4.1 Every heart has a desire for God. God is constantly inviting each person into a special relationship with Him. This begins and grows through constantly being attentive to the life of prayer .	2566-2567		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a heart shaped puzzle; have the students draw a heart; draw lines to create the pieces and label the pieces family, friends, Church, myself, and God. Have God's piece be the center of the heart. Cut this apart and reassemble the puzzle and affix onto another piece of paper.
3.4.2 Prayer is talking to God. It is communication with God who loves us. In prayer each person can develop a personal relationship with God.	2680, 2721, 2560	Matthew 26: 39-44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with the children different times throughout the day that they can pray. Pictures that represent different times of the day could be used, i.e. picture of someone eating breakfast.
3.4.3 In the Eucharist we gather with God's people to pray and celebrate God's love. This is the greatest prayer in the life of the Church.	1073		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind the children of their participation in Mass. • Create a class gift for Jesus. Bring in a shoe box and have the children illustrate gifts that they can give to Jesus during Mass, e.g. a hymnal to represent singing their best, a kind act that they did that they give to Jesus, and the responses to Mass. Wrap it elegantly and take it to Mass as a reminder.
3.4.4 We can pray by ourselves, with our families, or with God's people in church.	2664	Matthew 6:6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the children write their own prayer to God; and if they want, let them share.
3.4.5 Our minds and our hearts help us pray. Our minds help us to know God loves us. We can think of all the good things God has done for us. Our hearts thank God and praise Him.	2590	Matthew 6:9-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite the children to express either a traditional prayer or their personal prayer in multiple ways; e.g. paint, add hand motions, act it out, song.
3.4.6 There are different types of prayers, some prayers ask God for certain favors and others give thanks for gifts received.	2644		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the children write a short prayer that they can carry with them to pray it throughout the day. Keep the prayer to one line so that they can easily remember it. • Draw a large prayer card showing all the people and things for which the children are praying. Have the children sign their names at the bottom.

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Six Tasks of Catechesis			
Task Five: Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.			
Content	Catechism (paragraph number)	Scripture	Living the Christian Faith
3.5.1 In the Old Testament God formed a community with the Israelites. The Israelites were the chosen people who lived a covenant relationship with God.	2, 1461, 2013	Mark 3:13-19	
3.5.2 God created people to be social and have a need for one another. For this reason people live in various types of communities.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the children make a list of times when they gather with other people. • Have the students create a placemat with the Scripture verse, "How good it is, how pleasant, where the people dwell as one!" Psalm 133:1. • Decorate the placemat with simple symbols that represent activities where they gather, e.g. sandwich represents lunchtime.
3.5.3 The Catholic Church is a universal community under the pope who represents Jesus on earth. The universal Catholic community believes in Jesus Christ and His place in the Blessed Trinity.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have children make connections between the first Christian community and present day parish community. Assign a picture to a small group, e.g. the Last Supper, Jesus preaching to the crowd, and sharing gifts (the Loaves and Fishes story). The present day community pictures could be Mass (Liturgy of the Eucharist), the priest preaching, and giving items to the food pantry.
3.5.4 The apostles were chosen by Jesus to lead and serve His people. He chose Peter, who was the first Pope, to be their leader.	832, 833, 836	Matthew 28:16-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play a game that demonstrates leadership, e.g. Simon Says or; in partners have a leader and follower and the leader does simple hand motions that the other follows and then change who the leader is.
3.5.5 The bishops are successors of the apostles. Holy Orders is the Church's Sacrament of anointing leaders—bishops, priests, and deacons. These leaders continue Jesus' work of teaching, sanctifying and governing.	946, 828, 2683	Mark 10:42-45	

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3.5.6 Catholics locally belong to a parish community where they come together to worship God and be fed spiritually.	2179	John 15: 1-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meditate on the parable of the "Vine and the Branches"; Have a grape vine or a picture as a visual to focus on; discuss how the vine is kept alive by the sap and connect what the sap is in our community and relationship with Jesus.
3.5.7 Every parish has a pastor who is a priest. The name of our pastor is _____. He helps us to learn about and worship God in the celebration of the Mass.	1566-1568		
3.5.8 Your class is a community who comes together to learn about Christ. Each person can follow the way of Christ by loving and being kind to all members of the class and not excluding anyone.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the children create an acrostic poem of the word CATHOLIC that shows how they live and show their faith to others. • Play a game like musical chairs; after playing a little while discuss with them how it felt when they were excluded.
3.5.9 The family is a special community within the Church. The father and mother are equal before God. They have different but complementary roles. Children are a blessing from God. The family is an image of the Trinitarian communion.	2204; 2205		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate their family to the Holy Family. Make a poster with an image of the Holy Family and pictures of their families to hang in the prayer area to remind them to pray for their family. • Celebrate with your family; have the children come up with ideas of how they would like to celebrate just being a family, e.g. family meal, family game night, reading a book, etc.
3.5.10 Saints are special friends of Jesus who lived their lives doing God's will. They now live in heaven and are part of our Church family.	946, 828, 2683		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make connections with patron saints of the community workers; refer to the list of patron saints.

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Six Tasks of Catechesis			
Task Six: Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society.			
Content	Catechism (paragraph number)	Scripture	Living the Christian Faith
3.6.1 After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent time preparing the apostles to continue His work.	981, 1086	Mark 16:19-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing a song such as “Go Tell it on the Mountain” or “This Little Light of Mine”.
3.6.2 Like the Apostles, all Christians are called to be evangelizers by telling others about God and spreading the teachings of Jesus. We must pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in this mission .	1946, 1269-1270		
3.6.3 The Missionary life is rooted in each person’s baptismal call to serve other people. This missionary spirit is based in the reality that each person can offer service within their parish community by participating in activities that help other people.	1271, 1273	Mark 4:26-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell the story of Johnny Appleseed who was a devout Christian and went around spreading the Gospel as he planted apple trees; make connections with how we are called to plant seeds and allow God to do the growth. Share seeds and apples with the children. • Create a service project. An example could include: to write a card or note to the 2nd graders as they prepare for First Communion.
3.6.4 Some missionaries go to foreign countries to preach the Gospel and care for the poor. We must remember them in our prayers and acts of charity.	767-769, 904-907		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite someone from Church who has gone on a missionary trip to come and share. • Learn more about a sister parish if your parish has one; locate it on the map.
3.6.5 Prayer is an important part of the missionary call. When the Church offers prayers at Church on behalf of the missions we are living out this call. Saint Thérèse of Liseux is the patroness of the missions because of her prayers for the missions around the world.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a mission that needs prayers and locate it on the map. Write the mission a letter with a note including the promise of prayers and a collection that your class may have done.