

Fourth 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.

4th Grade

Characteristics of a 4th grade Child

- ◇ Enthusiasm, activity and self-confidence characterize this year
- ◇ Steady growth physically and mentally: Developing athletic skills
- ◇ Become fixated and engrossed in what they love
- ◇ More independent and motivated than even one year prior
- ◇ Mood swings can occur more significantly at age 9-from timid to bold, from cheerful to grumpy
- ◇ Learns from observation as well as direct instruction
- ◇ Like to plan and know where they are going. After starting a task it brings great accomplishment for them to follow it through
- ◇ Starting to organize time and may develop lists or schedules
- ◇ Starting to apply academic skills to real life: may start to save money to buy a much wanted item
- ◇ Reading and writing for personal enjoyment
- ◇ Starting to collect things: interests are very unique and distinct
- ◇ Want to please adults but peer group is central in importance
- ◇ Not only follows rules, but sees the need and importance for them. They want others to live by the rules and become frustrated when rules are not followed
- ◇ Have an interest in world affairs and global situations: cultures, people, government etc
- ◇ Growing in awareness of Justice, and social justice issues
- ◇ Has an interest in preteen culture (music, movies, books etc)
- ◇ Continuing to develop relationships primarily with the same sex
- ◇ Enjoys shared experiences with family and friends

Faith & Moral Development Characteristics/Needs

- ◇ Because they are prone to mood swings and get emotional when they are overtaxed, adults need to be patient and understanding while encouraging them. Try not to be irritated or impatient with their emotions.
- ◇ Because they want to be part of the group and be accepted, they need help in learning to resolve and deal with differences and conflict among peers. They need help accepting that people may think differently-this is acceptable. Learning to love and care for those who are unique and different is a very Godly way to live.
- ◇ They need to be free to make choices and encouraged when they choose the virtuous and moral path
- ◇ They need to be encouraged in their “rule following” “obedience” tendencies to look to the church for direction and instruction. This is a great opportunity to instill following Christ’s law of love and the 10 commandments.
- ◇ The desire to dive into interests should also include faith related activities not just interests in pop culture: faith related books, movies, saints, devotions etc.

- ◇ Need to learn about global and local social ills. Need to be encouraged to participate in caring of bringing solutions to those in need
- ◇ Because they are “coming into their own” and are finding confidence in who they are, this is a great time to encourage them to reflect on what God might be asking them of their lives. When we form conscience it should be a reflection on “How does God want us to act”. Or when choosing a path in life, “What does God want me to be?”
- ◇ Need to be encouraged to participate in daily prayer: reading of scripture, learning about the saints, journaling etc

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.
- ◇ Catechists should be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church

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 descendents 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.

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. Demonstrate how God communicated himself to us gradually. (CCC 53)
3. Articulate the meaning of covenant as God's response to sin as a promise of salvation, and explain God's covenants with his people throughout salvation history. Examples: Noah (Gen. 9:1-3); Abraham (Gen. 17: 1-9); Moses (Ex. 19: 1-8) (CCC 56-64).
4. Recall that on Mt. Sinai God gave his law to Moses and the people of Israel so that they might serve him as the one true God. (CCC 62)

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

1. Explain that Christian faith is Trinitarian: in the Father, through the Son, by the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Therefore our faith is not an isolated act either. No one can believe alone or live alone. (CCC 150-53, 182)

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

1. Explain that Scripture is God’s Word. Since God is the author, the saving message he shares with us must be true. (CCC 105, 107, 135)

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

1. Illustrate how the following Scriptural passages are experiences of God’s love for us, our duty to love our neighbor, and our need for mercy and forgiveness:
 - a. Ten Commandments (Exodus 20: 2-17),

- b. Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5: 1-12),
- c. Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37),
- d. Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-24)
- e. Temptation of Christ (Matthew 4: 1-11)

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

"I Believe in God the Father"

1. Identify that God is truth and God is all-knowing. (CCC 215-17)
2. Recall "Christians are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 232, 265)
3. Demonstrate how our heavenly Father takes care of everything in his creation; we trust in his providence. (CCC 303-05, 321-22)
4. Explain how we celebrate the new creation of redemption on Sunday. (CCC 349)
5. Recall that at the beginning of history, Adam and Eve, tempted by Satan, disobeyed God and fell into sin. (CCC 390, 396)
6. Explain how Satan and the other devils are fallen angels who freely refused to serve God; they try to tempt man to disobey God and fall into sin. (CCC 391-94, 414)

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

7. Summarizes that during his earthly life and sufferings, Jesus knew, loved and gave himself up for each one of us. (CCC 478)
8. Recall that the Father's only Son was conceived in the Blessed Virgin's womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 486, 497)
9. Discuss how in everything Jesus did, he is our model. (CCC 520-21, 562)
10. Restate that it is true that Jesus experienced death. But after his death his body did not decay in the tomb. (CCC 624, 627, 630)
11. Explain that the Paschal mystery includes the death and the resurrection of Jesus. (CCC 654)

"I Believe in the Holy Spirit."

12. Recall that at Pentecost, the risen Lord pours out the Holy Spirit; only then is the Holy Trinity fully revealed. (CCC 731-32, 746)

"I believe in the Holy Catholic Church"

13. Explain how everyone in the Church shares in the Christ's role as priest, prophet and king. (CCC 783-86, 803) And that Lay people have a vocation to share this with the world. (CCC 897-99, 901-05, 909-912, 940-43)
14. Explain that the Church is present in local Churches, over which the Church of Rome presides in charity. (CCC 832-34)
15. Recall that the Church is the Kingdom of God present in mystery. (CCC 865)
16. Articulate: Mary in heaven continues to pray for us. (CCC 969, 975)

“I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins.”

17. Explain that the Church has the power to forgive sins through the sacrament of Penance.

(CCC 980, 986)

“I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body.”

18. Explain that the resurrection of the body will take place at the last day, but in some way we are already seated with Christ in heaven. (CCC 1001-03)

“I Believe in Life Everlasting.”

19. Explain how we will be judged especially on our treatment of the poor and suffering.

(CCC 1033, 1039)

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. Connect our Sunday Mass to the resurrection of Jesus (CCC 1166-67, 1193)
2. Connect the liturgical seasons with the Paschal mystery. (CCC 1171)
3. Name the seven sacraments. (CCC 1117)
4. Explain that the Church affirms that in the sacraments we meet God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit & that sacraments are necessary for salvation. (CCC 1082-83, 1110-12, 1129)

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. Identify the 3 types of sacraments, and classify each sacrament as a sacrament of initiation, healing, or vocation. (CCC 1212, 1275, 1423, 1499, 1603, 1536)
2. Explain that both sin and forgiveness have a social as well as a personal dimension. (CCC 1440, 1462, 1469, 1445, 1482)
3. Explain that Marriage is a commitment to do what is good for others (spouse and children) in this world and helps them attain the happiness of Heaven. (CCC 1534,35)
4. Connect Christ's miracles of healing with the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. (CCC 1504, 1511)
5. Describe how priests preach the Gospel, celebrate the Eucharist and serve their parish as leaders. (CCC 1566-67, 1595)
6. Connect Confirmation with Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1285, 1287, 1302)
7. Explain and give examples of a sacramental. (i.e. tabernacle, crucifix, religious medals, etc.) (CCC 1764)

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. Explain that Christ is present in the Mass: in the scriptures, the priest, the congregation, but he is most especially present in the Eucharistic species, where he is “wholly and entirely present.” (CCC 1357-58, 1373-74)
2. Explain how in the Mass, we join our prayers to those of Mary and the saints in heaven. (CCC 1370)

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. Explain that God created us with immortal souls and calls us to eternal happiness with him self that live forever. (CCC 1703) the Beatitudes show us the path to the happiness in this life and in heaven. (CCC 1716, 1724-25)
2. Explain that God created us in his own image with a spiritual soul, including intellect and free will. (CCC 1711)
3. Recite the Beatitudes and demonstrate ways to apply them.(CCC 1716)
4. Recall the three necessary conditions for mortal sin: grave matter, sufficient knowledge, and free will. (CCC 1857-1859)
5. Explain how venial sin wounds us and draws us away from God (CCC 1862-63, 1865)
6. Explain that we are responsible for our deliberate actions. (CCC 1734, 1736, 1745)
7. Identify the three sources for evaluating the morality of human acts as the object, the intention, and the circumstances. (CCC 1757, 1750-54)
8. Explain that our feelings and emotions are gifts of God, but they are not always indicators of right and wrong. (CCC 1764, 1768)
9. Recognize that when our conscience accuses us, it means that God may be calling us to conversion. (CCC 1797)
10. Identify sin as a deliberate choice against God's law. (CCC 1874)
11. List the seven capital sins: pride, envy, anger, lust, gluttony and laziness. (CCC 1866)

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

1. Explain that God wants us to obey all legitimate authority. (CCC 1900)

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. Explain that the Church has the right and duty to teach what is right and wrong. (CCC 2032, 2037)
2. Connect the grace we receive through the sacraments and doing the will of the Father through the promptings of the Holy Spirit with the universal call holiness. (CCC 2013, 2028)
3. Recognize that the Gospel of Jesus Christ fulfills the Old Law by orienting its promises to the Kingdom of Heaven. (CCC 1967, 1982, 1984)

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

1. Describe how God uses a well-formed conscience to direct your behavior. (CCC 1776, 1795)

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

1. Explain why all human life is sacred. (CCC 2258)
2. Identify and distinguish between the Works of Mercy. (CCC 2447)

1st Commandment

3. Explain that we look upon sacred images with reverence, not for themselves, but for the persons they represent. (CCC 2131-32, 2141)
4. Contrast the "respectful veneration" and honor we pay to the saints with the worship and adoration due to God alone. (CCC 2132)

2nd Commandment

5. Explain blasphemy as the use of the name of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary, and of the saints in an offensive way. (CCC 2162)

3rd Commandment

6. Discuss how on Sundays and holy days of obligation Catholics must not only attend Mass but should also rest from all unnecessary work. (CCC 2185, 2192-93)

4th Commandment

7. Explain how the family is an image of the Holy Trinity. (CCC 2205)
8. Give examples of those in authority, besides our own parents, the fourth commandment calls us to respect. (CCC 2234, 2248)

5th Commandment

9. Recognize that the fifth commandment opposes murder - the deliberate killing of an innocent person. (CCC 2261, 2268-69, 2320)
10. Explain how deliberate hatred is contrary to charity and a violation of the fifth commandment. (CCC 2303)

6th Commandment

11. Discuss how men and women (boys and girls) have equal personal dignity, and complementary differences. (CCC 2333-34, 2393)
12. Explain that the sixth commandment opposes adultery, the breaking of the promise by a husband or wife to love only the other faithfully and fully. (CCC 2380)

7th Commandment

Not at this level

8th Commandment

13. Identify false witness and perjury as grave offenses against truth. Give examples. (CCC 2476)

9th Commandment

Not at this level

10th Commandment

14. Recognize the tenth commandment as being opposed to greed and covetousness. (CCC 2534, 2536, 2552)

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. Explain that prayer connects us with Trinity as one and separately as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (CCC 2565)
2. Recognize Jesus as a model of prayer. (CCC 2609, 2613, 2621)
3. Create a personal prayer of praise. (CCC 2628)
4. Give an example of when you use mental prayer as a way of listening to God. (CCC 2560-62)

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

1. Witness how prayer in Liturgy leads to prayer in life. (CCC 2655)
2. Compare Mary's experience with Jesus to your experience with Jesus through the mysteries of the rosary. (CCC 2708)

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

1. Recite the Rosary and a Morning Offering.

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 Fourth Grade should be introduced to the following Prayers and should be able to recite. **New prayers added for this year are in Bold:***

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Our Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Glory Be
5. Morning Offering
6. Prayer before meals
7. Prayer to Guardian Angel
8. Act of Contrition
9. Apostles & Nicene Creed
10. Mass responses
11. Stations of the Cross
12. Prayer to prepare for Mass, **Prayer for after Communion**
13. **Memorare**
14. **Hail Holy Queen**
15. Mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious & **Luminous**
16. **Angelus**

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

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 Fourth Grade the children should be taught the church's teaching on vocations as an independent session or incorporated into a daily plan. More specifically, Children should be encouraged and assisted to pray each day to deepen their friendship and relationship with Jesus. In their friendship they are called to imitate Jesus. This is our primary vocation, to love God in Obedience and service to others through a life of Charity (holiness of life). From the moment of Baptism God has a plan for each person. Some people are called to **married**, some to remain **single**, some to the **priesthood** and some to the **religious life** (sisters and brothers).

Bible and Catechism

A Child in 4th grade should be familiar with the bible. They should know that the bible has both Old and New Testaments and should have basic knowledge of how to look up a scripture. Students should be encouraged to read the Gospels and learn more about Christ and what he did in his life. Scripture should be used with students for instruction and prayer experiences.

It is this year that they are shown a catechism for the first time. They should be told, "this is the book given to us by the Church with all the teachings that have been passed down since the Apostles." Our goal is for the students to see this book and know generally what it is, not read it. The content of the Catechism is above a 4th grade level, therefore using the YOUCAT would be more age appropriate in 4th grade.

Prayers to Learn

Prayer After Mass

*Lord Jesus Christ, take all my freedom,
my memory, my understanding, and my will.
All that I have and cherish
you have given me.
I surrender it all to be guided by Your will.
Your grace and Your love
are enough for me.
Give me these, Lord Jesus,
and I ask for nothing more.
Amen.*

Memorare

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled
to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I
come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, de-
spise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.*

Amen.

Hail Holy Queen

*Hail, holy Queen,
mother of mercy,
our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To thee do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn
then,
most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile show us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement,
O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.*

Amen

Mysteries of the Rosary***THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES****(Thursdays):*

1. *The Baptism in the Jordan*
2. *The Wedding at Cana*
3. *Proclamation of the Kingdom*
4. *The Transfiguration*
5. *Institution of the Eucharist*

Angelus*The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:**And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to Thy word.**Hail Mary . . .**And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us.**Hail Mary . . .**Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**Let us pray:**Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.**Amen.*