

Seventh 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.

7th Grade

Characteristics of a 7th grade Child

- ◇ One characteristic of 12 year olds is rapid growth: physical, emotional, social and spiritual. As a result they feel awkward, self conscious and uncertain. Their interior turmoil and self-doubt are often expressed in symptoms associated with adolescence: boredom, frustration, sharp mood swings, withdrawal and apathy.
- ◇ Between different Children of this age variation in physical, emotional social and spiritual development is great.
- ◇ 12 year olds may be experiencing sudden, sharp, and short lived pains in various parts of their bodies - they are growing and maturing
- ◇ Very aware of the changes in persons of the opposite sex
- ◇ Are impacted greatly by his/her changing body and newly acquired ability to think abstractly
- ◇ Struggle to express autonomy and need
- ◇ They thrive when are able to experience new opportunities to have positive experiences with new gifts and talents from both mind and body
- ◇ Are challenged when encouraged to think and engage in experiences that elicit deep compassion for another
- ◇ Have great introspective tendencies (great for journaling and meditation)
- ◇ Demonstrates a desire to see justice and fairness for all
- ◇ Experiences affirming and positive relationships with both sexes
- ◇ Beginning to question all forms of authority in their lives- may act rebellious, antagonistic and negative toward adults.
- ◇ May consider peer approval more important than adult approval.

Faith & Moral Development Characteristics/Needs

- ◇ 12 year olds need to come to terms with the influence of peers and responsible decision making. They need to cultivate the courage and strength to make the right decisions.
- ◇ They need to learn to develop self-discipline and sensitivity to others – this could be a very selfish time as well as one that fosters respect/disrespect for others
- ◇ They need to learn to deal positively with their own mistakes and failures. They should be encouraged by God’s unconditional promise of love and presence. Acceptance and love can be found in the Church
- ◇ Young adolescents need to experience love, freedom, belonging, trust, support and acceptance. They need to be respected as persons. This speaks to them of their dignity – they should be assured of their hope and salvation through Christ and Baptism.
- ◇ Young people should be encouraged and need to understand sexuality and the Humanity we have been given as a gift from God. It should not be disrespected or treated casually.
- ◇ Adults should encourage friendships with both sexes that foster respect for the dignity of each person.

- ◇ Adolescents must be taught to live virtuously, that true happiness does not come from following friends or worldly examples, but rather true happiness comes from following Christ.
- ◇ The Catechist needs to lead the young people to continued knowledge of the faith, more involvement in the sacraments, a deeper prayer life, and to reflection on Christian living.
- ◇ Young people want to know practical knowledge of Catholic tradition and how to apply the teachings of the church to everyday life. They need adults to offer and foster examples of this.
- ◇ Adolescents are bombard with the profane in their lives, Adults should offer to deepen the experience of the sacred-that which is true, good and beautiful. Expose them to opportunities to learn reverence and the presence of God (tabernacle, adoration etc)
- ◇ At this age the need to understand and appreciate the operations of the various powers of intellect, will and the sense appetite. Adults should, teach that the interior turmoil they feel are typical of most maturing individuals. They need to be patient with themselves while doing all they can to master these inner struggles. They should also be taught the grace that comes from God through sacraments and prayer. They simply need to go to God for help.

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.

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 God has revealed himself to us gradually, by communicating his own mystery in word and actions. (CCC 69)
3. Memorize and explain the meaning of: “The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New.” (St. Augustine; CCC 129)
4. Support why “Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written.” (CCC 111)

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

1. Explain that faith is both a personal adherence to God and a free assent to the Truth that God has revealed. Faith is our response to God, who reveals himself and gives himself to us. (CCC 26, 150, 176)
2. Apply that faith always seeks to understand better what God has revealed. (CCC 158)
3. Demonstrate that in all the cultures of our world, the Catholic faith is one and the same everywhere. (CCC 172-75)

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 stories from Sacred Scripture that describe the person and ministry of Jesus Christ:
 - a. Baptism of the Lord (Matthew 3:13-17)
 - b. Jesus Calls the Fishermen (Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 9:9-13)
 - c. Teachings of Jesus (Matthew 5-7; 25:31-46; John 3:16; 13-17)
 - d. Good Shepherd (John 10: 1-10)
 - e. Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8)

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

1. Explain why the Apostles' Creed is an ancient baptismal creed of the Church of Rome. (CCC 194)

"I Believe in God the Father"

2. Support: Even after God reveals himself, he remains a mystery. Although something remains a mystery it is still knowable through reason and revelation. (CCC 206, 230)
3. Explain the special words the Church has found to describe the mystery of the Trinity: God is three persons in one nature. (CCC 252)
4. Illustrate how the Father's plan uses creatures as cooperators; human beings cooperate freely with God's design. (CCC 306-08,323)
5. Explain how God made man and woman in his image; they are equal in dignity but complementary as masculine and feminine. Marriage is the first form of human community. (CCC 355,369,371-72,383)
6. Explain why the reality of sin is impossible to ignore, and any alternate explanations are inadequate. Especially the denial of original sin, such denial undermines the redemption won by Christ. (CCC 386-87, 389)

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

7. Demonstrates how when we love Christ, we want to know him better and to proclaim him. (CCC 428-29)
8. Explain that "The title 'Son of God' signifies the unique and eternal relationship of Jesus Christ to God his Father ... To be a Christian, one must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (CCC 444,454)
9. Explain how the Church has found a special way to describe this mystery: "Jesus Christ possesses two natures, one divine and the other human, not confused, but united in the one person of God's son." (CCC 481)
10. Explain how through her Immaculate Conception, Mary, "from the first instant of her conception, was totally preserved from the stain of original sin, and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life." (CCC 508)
11. Explain that "By the expression 'He descended into hell,' the Apostles' Creed confesses that Jesus did really die and through his death for us conquered death and the devil 'who has the power of death.'" (CCC 635-36)

12. Explain that the holy women and the disciples came to believe in Christ's Resurrection through the discovery of the empty tomb, and especially through the appearance of the Risen One. (CCC 640-42,657)

"I Believe in the Holy Spirit."

13. Summarize that in the New Testament in the fullness of time, the Holy Spirit prepares for the coming of Jesus Christ in special and unique ways through John the Baptist and Mary. (CCC 717-730)
14. Explain that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit has the one, same nature as the Father and Son, yet is distinct from them; with them he is adored. (CCC 685,689)

"I believe in the Holy Catholic Church"

15. Explain why believing that the Church is holy, catholic, one and apostolic is inseparable from belief in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (CCC 750)
16. Demonstrate how the Church links us in a special way to the poor and suffering. (CCC 786, 806)
17. Paraphrase: "The Church is the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the soul, as it were, of the Mystical Body, the source of its life, of its unity in diversity, and the richness of its gifts and chrisms." (CCC 797-98, 809)
18. Give examples of how the whole Church is missionary by nature, a vocation in which all her members share. (CCC 848-52,863)
19. Recognize that the bishop is the vicar, not of the Pope, but of Christ, and is the source of unity in his own diocese. (CCC 886,895,938)
20. Recall that the bishop's first duty is to proclaim the Word of God; he also sanctifies and governs. His faithful should be closely attached to him. (CCC 888, 893-94, 896, 935, 939)
21. Defend that because of our link with the Communion of Saints, it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead. (CCC 953, 955, 958)

"I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins."

22. Explain that Christ wills to use priests and sacraments as his instruments to forgive sins. (CCC 987)

"I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body."

23. Explain that belief in the resurrection of the dead is essential to Christianity. (CCC 991)
24. Explain that we will rise with our own bodies but they will be glorious and spiritual. (CCC 999)
25. Defend that salvation is through the flesh, which gives a dignity to the human body. (CCC 1004, 1015)

"I Believe in Life Everlasting."

26. Explain that it is possible to choose hell, which is principally eternal separation from God. God wills everyone to be saved: no one is willed by God to go to hell. (CCC 1033-37, 1056-58)

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. Memorize: "The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us." (CCC 1131)
2. Evaluate ways in which the Liturgy of the Word makes a remembrance of all that God and his son, Jesus Christ, have done for us. (CCC 1103)
3. Explain how in keeping the memorials of the saints—first of all the holy Mother of God, then the apostles, martyrs, and other saints—on fixed days of the liturgical year, the Church on earth shows that she is united with the liturgy in heaven. (CCC 1195)
4. Explain that every Catholic is called to actively participate in the liturgy, which is the work of Christ and His Church (CCC 1071)
5. Correlate the proper form and symbol to each sacrament. (CCC Baptism 1256, 1278, 1284; Eucharist 1390; Penance 1461, 1495; Anointing of the Sick 1513, 1519, 1531; Holy Orders 1573, 1581-82, 1597; Matrimony 1621-23, 1632, 1663)
6. Explain the mission of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy of the Church. (CCC 1112; 1091-1109)

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. Explain that Confirmation completes the process begun in Baptism. (CCC 1285, 1306)
2. Explain that all Christians, regardless of their denomination, are initiated into their faith through baptism. (CCC 1271).
3. Recall that Christ is fully present under either form of bread or wine. (CCC 1390)
4. Describe how the Eucharist helps us grow in relationship with God. (CCC 1394-95, 1416)
5. Explain that repentance [also called contrition] must be inspired by motives that arise from faith; and the difference between 'perfect' and 'imperfect' contrition. (CCC 1492, 1451-53)
6. Explain that spouses give the Sacrament of Marriage to each other and the priest is the wit-

- ness for the Church. (CCC 1623)
7. Compare and contrast a covenant and a contract, and identify why Marriage is a covenant with God. (CCC 1639, 1647)
 8. Justify why only priests and bishops can give the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. (CCC 1516, 1530)
 9. Justify why it is bishops who confer the Sacrament of Holy Orders to deacons, priests or bishop. (CCC 1575-76)
 10. Recognize that Catholics must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year, if they have a serious sin. (CCC 1457)
 11. Defend where Jesus entrusted his Church with the power to forgive sins and why this power is validly exercised by the bishops and priests by virtue of priestly ordination. (CCC 1461, 1495)
 12. Explain that the “sacramental seal” of confession binds priests to keep sins confessed by penitents absolutely secret, and admits of no exceptions. (CCC 1467)
 13. Explain that ultimately, Jesus Christ is the one priest, and ordained ministers share in his priesthood. Because of this, even the sacraments of an unworthy minister are valid. (CCC 1545, 1550, 1584)

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 how the Eucharist re-presents the sacrifice of the cross, with which it is one single sacrifice. (CCC 1365-67)
2. Explain why the mass can be offered for the living and the dead. (CCC 1370-71)
3. Explain that only a validly ordained priests can consecrate the Eucharist. (CCC 1411)
4. Explain that anyone aware of having committed a mortal sin must not receive Holy Communion without having first received sacramental absolution. (CCC 1457)

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. Justify that the basis of all moral teaching is the person of Jesus Christ who possesses perfect holiness and the perfection of every virtue. (CCC 1698)
2. Explain why charity, love of God, and neighbor is the supreme virtue. (CCC 1822-29, 1844)
3. Explain the contentment, joy, fulfillment, and fullness of heaven as being supernatural, surpassing anything we are able to do or merit on our own. (CCC 1722, 1727)
4. Define and explain hope as the theological virtue by which we desire the Kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness. (CCC 1817-21, 1843)

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

1. Summarize the principle of subsidiary: problems are best solved at the lowest level of authority. (CCC 1883-1885, 1894)
2. Give examples of our obligation as Catholics to further the Kingdom of God through participation in public life (e.g. an informed voter, volunteering, etc.). (CCC 1913-1915, 1926)

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. Analyze how we can merit additional grace through the power of the Holy Spirit and charity. (CCC 2010)
2. Defend the Church's right and duty to speak in defense of basic human rights and natural justice. (CCC 2036, 2050)

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

1. Support the need for the lifelong task of conscience formation, including reflection and examination. (CCC 1779, 1784)
2. Relate a life situation in which a well-formed conscience guides behavior. (CCC 1783-85, 1788, 1794, 1798, 1802)
3. Apply the way we witness to the dignity of the human person by following the moral law in a real life situation. (CCC 1750-1760)

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

1. Explain that while the Ten Commandments are a gift and a revelation of God, the moral life is a response to God's love. (CCC 2059, 2062)

1st Commandment

2. Explain that the first commandment binds us to hope in God. Sins opposed to it include despair, presumption and tempting God. (CCC 2090-92, 2119)
3. Explain that we are called to worship God, and sins opposed to this true worship are idolatry, sacrilege and simony. (CCC 2099-2100, 2112-14, 2120-21, 2136, 2139)

2nd Commandment

Not at this level

3rd Commandment

Not at this level

4th Commandment

4. Explain that the family is based on marriage, which exists for the good of the spouses, and procreation and education of children. (CCC 2201, 2249)
5. Articulate that grown children have a moral duty to support their parents in old age. (CCC 2218)

5th Commandment

6. Explain why the use of drugs, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense.
7. Discuss the right to life of every human being from the moment of conception and the definition of mortal (even canonical) gravity of direct abortion. (CCC 2322)

6th Commandment

8. Discuss the effect of general culture and the media on sexual morality (pornography, prostitution, divorce, etc.). (CCC 2354, 2382-85, 2396, 2400)
9. Support the reservation of sexual activity to marriage in regard to the dignity of the human person; this includes masturbation, fornication, sex for engaged couples, "living together", trial marriage, and adultery. (CCC 2350-2353, 2360, 2380-81, 2390-91, 2396, 2400)

10. Recognize that every marriage act must be open to children; this excludes contraception.
(CCC 2366, 2398-99)

7th Commandment

8th Commandment

11. Explain how one's reputation and honor are aspects of a person's human dignity, and how each of the following sins injure them: rash judgment, detraction, and calumny.
(CCC 2477-79, 2507)

9th Commandment

10th Commandment

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. Analyze prayer as a “surge of the heart” toward God; it is a relationship of love expressed through all circumstances of life. (CCC 2558)
2. Explain that prayer arises from faith, hope, and love. (CCC 2656-58)

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

1. Give examples of Mary as a model of prayer, particularly in her Fiat and at the foot of the Cross. (CCC 2627-18)

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

1. Describe ways to turn the heart back to God when distracted in prayer. (CCC 2729, 2754)
2. Recite Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love and the Jesus prayer. (CCC 453, 2616)

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

1. Defend the Lord's Prayer as the summary of the whole Gospel. (CCC 2761)

Prayers to Learn

Children in Seventh Grade should be introduced to the following Prayers and should be able to recite:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 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 | 21. Divine Praises |
| 11. Stations of the Cross | 22. Anima Christi |

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. **Daily Examination of Conscience**
8. Participate in a Rosary: Know all Mysteries
9. Participate in Devotions: Stations of the Cross, Novenas - Sacred Heart of Jesus
10. **Adoration**
11. Saint intercession
12. Litanies
13. Examen & Lectio Divina

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 Seventh Grade the children should be taught the church's teaching on vocations as an independent session or incorporated into a daily plan. More specifically, God reveals our personal vocation through the deepest desires of our heart, through the circumstances of life, and through conversations with people we trust. Quiet prayer provides the opportunity to recognize that these desires actually originate from God and reveal the manner of serving others that will bring the greatest personal joy and fulfillment. Our personal vocation is the means by which we draw closer to God. A vocation does not just concern the individual person because a vocation involves serving others and building up the Church, the family of God. We should pray for the grace to serve God in our vocation with an undivided heart. 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

By Seventh Grade, most students have studied and used the bible regularly. In the Seventh grade we want to encourage the students to know of the contents in Scripture in both the Old and New testaments and have a regular schedule in which they are encountering God in Scripture in Prayer. Perhaps, using a journal and practices like Lectio Divina to deepen their relationship with Christ. Children can be taught scripture as God's word that speaks to us and speaks about us.

It is in 7th grade that the students are expected to learn how to use the Catechism. This will form a foundation for their lives to go to the Catechism to know the teachings of the Church. They should be familiar with the four pillars and the cross reference system between the bible and the Catechism. The YOUCAT is structured the same as the adult (4 pillars) and can be used in coordination with the Adult Catechism to help students see their correlation.

Prayers

Divine Praises

Blessed be God. Blessed be His Holy Name. Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man. Blessed be the Name of Jesus. Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart. Blessed be His Most Precious Blood. Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy. Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception. Blessed be her Glorious Assumption. Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother. Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse. Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.

Anima Christi

*Soul of Christ, sanctify me
 Body of Christ, save me
 Blood of Christ, inebriate me
 Water from Christ's side, wash me
 Passion of Christ, strengthen me
 O good Jesus, hear me
 Within Thy wounds hide me
 Suffer me not to be separated from Thee
 From the malicious enemy defend me
 In the hour of my death call me
 And bid me come unto Thee
 That I may praise Thee with Thy saints
 and with Thy angels
 Forever and ever*

Amen