



Parents' Guide to Diocesan Faith Formation Curriculum
Grade 5

'God's love is communicated to infants and young children primarily through parents.' Parents have shared the gift of human life with their children, and through Baptism have enriched them with a share in God's own life. Parents are the primary educators [of their children] in the faith. (NDC, 203 & 101)

What exactly is the Diocesan Faith Formation Curriculum?

- A document that clearly states what participants in parish faith formation programs and Catholic elementary school religion classes should be able to *know, understand, and do at each grade level.*

What is the aim of this guide?

- The primary aim of this guide is to support parents as the first teachers of their children in their faith.
- To serve as tool for communicating the content for each age/grade level of children to parents.
- To provide some suggestions for integrating faith practices in their homes.

How is it organized?

- The curriculum is organized according to the six tasks of Catechesis, referred to as the **Six Key Elements** of a lived Catholic Faith; while always remembering that the outcome for catechesis is *growing in relationship with Christ.*

These six key elements are:

- o Knowledge of the faith;
- o Liturgy and Sacraments;
- o Morality;
- o Prayer;
- o Education for Living in the Christian Community;
- o Evangelization and Apostolic Life.

For Each Element

- There are standards or broad headings. All these standards should be covered in every program for adults, youth and children.

For Each Standard

- Each standard in turn has age appropriate indicators or knowledge, skills or behavior.
- These indicators will guide instruction and activities in faith formation programs and classrooms.

What do the different fonts mean?

- **Core items that must be covered in all parish and school programs are in bold print.**

- *Enrichment items that are optional and can be covered if there is time are in italics.*

What is meant by words being underlined?

- Underlining means this is a vocabulary word to know. When a simpler age appropriate definition is needed it is within the indicator itself.

CHILD PROTECTION: SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

Diocesan policy requires that a session on Safe Environment is offered to all children in our parish and school programs at the start of each program year. More information can be found on the Diocesan website and should be shared by parish catechetical leaders and principals with families at the beginning of each year.



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Key Element I: *Knowledge of the Faith* **– What We Believe**

“Sacred Scripture has a preeminent position in catechesis because Sacred Scripture “presents God’s own Word in unalterable form” and “makes the voice of the Holy Spirit resound again and again in the words of the prophets and apostles.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church is intended to complement Sacred Scripture. Together with Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture constitutes the supreme rule of faith.” (NDC no. 24)

At-Home Ideas:

At the intermediate elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of the **Knowledge of the Faith** in your home: *The willingness of parents to grow in their understanding of faith issues models for their children the belief that growth in faith is a lifelong process. Parents seek opportunities to share their faith with other adults as well as with their children. Parents take the time necessary to answer informal faith questions as they arise or research unknown answers with the child, using Scripture or the Catechism of the Catholic Church when appropriate. Families actively participate in the life of the parish.*

Standard 1 **CREED:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune and redeeming God as revealed in creation and human experience, in Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture, and as entrusted to the teaching office of the Church.

☞ Identify the **Trinity** in the **Nicene Creed**.

☞ Identify the revelation of the **Trinity** in the story of Jesus' Baptism in the Gospel of Mark. (Mk 1:9-11)

☞ Understand that the Church teaches that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man.

☞ Understand that **faith** is a gift freely given by God and freely received.

☞ Identify the **marks of the Church**: **one**, **holy**, **Catholic**, and **apostolic**.

☞ Recognize Mary as the **Immaculate Conception**.

☞ Define the **Immaculate Conception**: that from the first moment of her conception, Mary – by the singular grace of God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ – was preserved immune from original sin.

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

☞ Understand meaning of **Gospel**, as the good news proclaimed by Jesus.

☞ Understand meaning of **evangelist** as the name given to the four writers of the New Testament Gospels who are called Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

☞ e that the **Gospel of Mark** is found in the New Testament.

☞ Identify the writer of the Gospel of Mark, the time of writing, and the community for whom the Gospel was written.

☞ Identify the chief characters in the Gospel of Mark especially **Jesus**, **John the Baptist**, **Peter**, **the Twelve Apostles**, **Judas**, and **Mary Magdalene**.

☞ Explain the role of St. **John the Baptist** in the Gospel of Mark.

☞ Understand the power of Jesus to heal and to forgive in the Gospel of Mark.

☞ Know that the whole of Christ's life continually teaches us: his birth, hidden years, public life, the mysteries of his death, Resurrection, Ascension, his prayer, and his love of people.

☞ Understand Jesus as **Suffering Servant** in the Gospel of Mark.

☞ Retell the parables in the Gospel of Mark. (Mk 3:22-30, 4:21-29)

☞ Identify meaning of **discipleship**; a disciple is a follower of Jesus, one who accepts and assists in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ by both words and deeds.



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- ⌄ Understand significance of the **miracle** of the loaves.
- ⌄ Identify significance of the **Transfiguration** of Jesus.
- ⌄ List the two **nature miracles** of Jesus in Mark's gospel. (Mk 4:37-41; 6:48-51; 11:12-14)
- ⌄ Understand Jesus' predictions about his death in the Gospel of Mark. (Mk 8:31-33; 9:30-32; 10:32-34)
- ⌄ Explain why the disciples perceived Jesus' walk to Jerusalem to be so difficult. (Mk 10:32)
- ⌄ Identify who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. (Mk 9:33-37)
- ⌄ Identify the respect Jesus had for women.
- ⌄ Explain the significance of Jesus' last meal of the **Passover** with his disciples.
- ⌄ Explain the meaning of the **Paschal Mystery** in relationship to Jesus' death and Resurrection.
- ⌄ Understand Mark's account of the **Resurrection** of Jesus (Mk 16:1-8).
- ⌄ Understand that Jesus predicts his resurrection in the Gospel of Mark. (Mk 8:31-33; 9:30-32; 10:32-34)

Key Element II: Liturgy and Sacraments

- How We Celebrate

"Faith and worship are as closely related to one another as they were in the early Church: faith gathers the community for worship, and worship renews the faith of the community... In her Liturgy, the Church celebrates what she professes and lives above all the Paschal Mystery, by which Christ accomplished the work of our salvation." (NDC no. 32)

At-Home Ideas:

At this level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of the **Liturgy and Sacraments** in your home: *Parents help to deepen their children's understanding of sacraments by regular and active participation in sacramental celebrations followed by conversation about the experience. Participation in communal celebrations of the Sacrament of penance and reconciliation and other opportunities for reconciliation and weekly Sunday liturgy are particularly important for the intermediate child and his or her family.*

Standard 3 SACRAMENTS: Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as effective signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- ⌄ Describe the **sacraments** as supernatural signs of grace instituted by Christ and given to the Church to strengthen our faith and make us holy.
- ⌄ Name the **Sacraments of Initiation**, and describe them and their symbols.
- ⌄ Describe the **Mass** as the one perfect sacrifice of Christ seen particularly in the words of **consecration**.
- ⌄ Describe the **Sacrament of Matrimony** as a grace-filled covenant between a man and woman.
- ⌄ Describe **Holy Orders** as a call given by God to men to serve His people and bring them to the sacraments.
- ⌄ Witness the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** and recognize God's healing presence.

Standard 4 LITURGY: Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church as expressed in the liturgy year and epitomized in the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.

- ⌄ List the **liturgical feasts** and seasons of the Church.
- ⌄ Describe the **hierarchy of the Church** (pope, cardinals, bishops/archbishops, deacons, priests, etc).
- ⌄ Explain that all forms of **liturgy** are the actions of the Holy Spirit intending to make us holy.
- ⌄ Compare and contrast the Mass with the symbolic Jewish Passover meal.
- ⌄ Defines **symbol** and **ritual**.



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- ⌘ Describe the rite of **Baptism**.
- ⌘ Know that the Church has several names for the Sacrament of **Penance: the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of Forgiveness**.

Key Element III: Morality - How We Live

"Christ is the norm of morality." Christian morality consists in following Jesus Christ, in abandoning oneself to him, in letting oneself be transformed by his grace and renewed by his mercy, gifts which come to us in the living communion of his Church." (NDC no. 42)

At-Home Ideas:

At the intermediate school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Morality** in your home: *Parents help their children learn to make right choices through dialogue about routine decisions. Respect and appreciation for ourselves and others are communicated when parents show respect and appreciation for their children. Participation in the responsibilities of family life teaches intermediate students the value of Christian service and a wholesome moral life. It can not be emphasized enough, that good moral and apostolic actions by the parents teach children how to act.*

Standard 5 **Conscience:** Develop a moral conscience informed by church teachings.

- ⌘ Explain **morality**.
- ⌘ *Explain that it is the Holy Spirit that enables us to grow and act in a Christian manner.*
- ⌘ *Recognize Christian morality as an invitation to respond freely to God's love.*
- ⌘ *Recognize that we are responsible for our own actions.*
- ⌘ **Identify that our conscience helps us to know what is right and to do what we believe is right.**
- ⌘ **Identify the eight **Beatitudes** as Jesus' teaching about the **Kingdom of God** and moral goodness.**
- ⌘ **Identify moral goodness with **justice** and **stewardship**.**
- ⌘ **Explain what virtues are and how they are acquired.**
- ⌘ **Name and explain the four **Cardinal Virtues**: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.**

Standard 6 **Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, conversion, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- ⌘ *Identify a sense of personal goodness and self-worth as being responsible and loving.*
- ⌘ **Acknowledge that from the first moment of new life, at conception, a unique, unrepeatable human being is created and loved by God.**
- ⌘ **Identify moral goodness with justice and stewardship.**
- ⌘ *Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.*
- ⌘ *Discuss how all persons created by God are part of God's family, no matter their culture or race.*
- ⌘ **Give examples of how social justice principles can be applied to inform and critique both personal and societal situations.**
- ⌘ **Explain why we are called to participate in outreach activities that reach out to the poor, the lonely, and the suffering as Jesus did.**
- ⌘ *Understand that Jesus healed and continues to heal others sometimes even through us.*
- ⌘ *Understand that the Church teaches that we must work for a more just and fair world.*
- ⌘ *Understand that the sacraments provide us with God's healing and nourishment.*
- ⌘ *Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.*



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⌘ *Understand that the Church – one, holy, catholic, and apostolic – is the People of God, called together by the Holy Spirit*

⌘ **Describe how the Church is the sacrament of Christ in the world.**

⌘ **State the seven key themes or principles of Catholic Social Teaching** (See Appendix #2 for a listing)

Key Element IV: Prayer **- How We Pray**

“God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer” (CCC no. 1075). His initiative comes first; the human response to his initiative is itself prompted by the grace of the Holy Spirit... In prayer, the Holy Spirit not only reveals the identity of the Triune God to human persons but also reveals the identity of human persons to themselves. (NDC no. 34)

At-Home Ideas:

At this age, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Prayer** in your home: *Parents speak most clearly about the importance of prayer in life when their children see them pray. Your example speaks volumes that words can not match. The prayer life of children is enriched by praying at home and at regular parish celebrations of liturgy and sacraments.*

Standard 7 **PRAYER:** Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer and acknowledge prayer as the primary way we deepen our knowledge of God in the community.

⌘ **Pray daily as a way of calling God to mind, remaining in his presence, being in love with him, seeking his guidance, expressing sorrow for sins, seeking his forgiveness, growing in trust of him and simply thanking him. (1Thes 5:17)**

⌘ **Recognize sacramental ritual prayers.**

⌘ **Construct spontaneous and meditation prayers.**

⌘ **Memorize liturgical responses.**

⌘ **Lead the Rosary with a group (in class session or at home).**

⌘ *Recognize prayer as a loving communication with God that helps each person develop and strengthen their relationship with him and also the community of the Church.*

⌘ **Understand that faithfulness to prayer and worship leads to the [grace](#) to lead a moral life.**

⌘ **Participate in the church as a celebration of the [Paschal Mystery](#).**

Memorize and recite and lead others in reciting the Rosary. *Please note that the full texts of the prayers and practices for Catholics to teach your child are found in the online glossary and also in a downloadable document online: Appendix 2 **KEY PRACTICES AND PRAYERS FOR CATHOLICS**.*

Praying the Rosary & Mysteries of the Rosary [CCC nos. 2678, 2708, cf. 1674]

• **Praying the Rosary**

- Hold the crucifix and pray the Apostles' Creed.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer when holding each single bead.
- Pray the Hail Mary on each bead in a group of three or ten. A group of ten Hail Marys is called a decade of the Rosary.
- After each group of Hail Marys, pray the Glory Be to the Father.
- Close the Rosary by praying the Hail, Holy Queen.



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Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community - How We Live in the Community, the Church

“We were created as social beings who find fulfillment only in love – for God and for our neighbor. If we are truly to gaze upon him who is the source of our joy, we need to do so as members of the people of God (cf. Spe Salvi no. 14). If this seems counter-cultural, that is simply further evidence of the urgent need for a renewed evangelization of culture.” (Benedict XVI – 16 April 2008 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception)”

At-Home Ideas:

At the intermediate school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Education for Living in the Christian Community** in your home: *Children are now capable of taking on more responsibility and ownership of their faith life while still needing clear guidance from parents. Allowing children to participate more fully in parish life and highlighting the ways that they live a virtuous life to them helps them to realize that they are blessed by God with gifts and talents to share with the large parish community.*

Standard 8 CATHOLIC CHURCH: Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of believers, as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charisms, members and the communion of saints.

- ☞ **Know that Christ established and sustains here on earth his holy Church, the community of faith, hope and charity, through which he communicates truth and grace to all humankind through his Holy Spirit.**
- ☞ *Recall that the Church is the "people of God," called together by the Holy Spirit, and is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.*
- ☞ **Show understanding that the Catholic Church is entrusted with the mission of Jesus Christ.**
- ☞ **Identify Peter as the first of the apostles and head of the early Christian community.**
- ☞ *Identify name of current Pope as the official head of the Catholic Church.*
- ☞ **Recognize how the Pope speaks in the name of the Church to all its members and to the world.**
- ☞ **Identify the head of a diocese as a bishop, an archdiocese as an archbishop (who also may be a cardinal).**
- ☞ *Name current Archbishop of Washington.*
- ☞ **Articulate that Holy Orders is the sacrament that provides deacons, priests and bishops to serve the People of God in the Catholic Church.**
- ☞ **Show understanding that all members of the Church belong to the Communion of Saints by reason of baptism.**

Standard 9 ECUMENISM: Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with other Catholic (Eastern), Orthodox, and Christian churches.

- ☞ **Explain that Jesus founded the Catholic Church and named Peter as the rock upon which that Church would be built. (Mt 16:18)**
- ☞ **State that the Catholic Church recognizes that the Pope is the successor of Peter on earth and therefore the leader of the Catholic Church throughout the world.**
- ☞ **Identify that the bishop or archbishop of a diocese is a successor of the Apostles, appointed by the Pope, sign of our unity and shepherd of the particular Church assigned to him.**



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- ⌘ *State that our respect for other Christians means that we can both recognize what we share in common but also that we believe that they do not share in the fullness of the faith Christ taught.*
- ⌘ *Relate how Catholics are called to work and pray for unity in the Church because Jesus also prayed "that they all may be one." (Jn 17:20-23)*
- ⌘ **Know that the Eastern Christian Churches that do not accept the role of the Pope as the successor of St. Peter and head of the universal Church are called "Orthodox".**
- ⌘ *Compare and contrast the Eastern Catholic Churches and the Roman Catholic Church.*

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

- ⌘ **Define "sacred" and "precious" as all comes from and belongs to God.**
- ⌘ **Describe that God created humans with bodies and souls.**
- ⌘ **Explain how modesty demonstrates respect for one's body and the bodies of others.**
- ⌘ *Identify that we are capable of intimacy and trust of others because of God's love for us*
- ⌘ *Define conception as the moment when life begins.*
- ⌘ **Explain that human life is sacred from its beginning to its natural end.**
- ⌘ *Compare our adoption as sons and daughters of God through Baptism, to adoption into a human family.*

Standard 11 VOCATION: Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ responding in faith by participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- ⌘ *Understand meaning of discipleship.*
- ⌘ **Identify the Sacrament of Baptism as initiation into a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ.**
- ⌘ *Recognize vocations as particular calls in the Church to live the Christian life.*
- ⌘ *Examine a variety of Christian vocations as responses to the baptismal call.*
- ⌘ **Understand that through Baptism all followers of Jesus are called to the ministry of service.**
- ⌘ **Understand that some people are called to the priesthood or religious life, others to married or single life.**

Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life

– *How we, as Individuals and Community, Live in Service to the World.*

"Only if we are aware of our calling, as individuals and as a community, to be part of God's family as his sons and daughters, will we be able to generate a new vision and muster new energy in the service of a truly integral humanism. The greatest service to development, then, is a Christian humanism that enkindles charity and takes its lead from truth, accepting both as a lasting gift from God." (Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, no. 78)

At-Home Ideas:

At this age, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Evangelization and Apostolic Life** in your home: *Children are learning to better articulate their faith. Ask your children good questions to help stimulate their thoughts. Ask them in simple ways to begin to integrate the faith life with their everyday life and examples of situations they may encounter with their family or friends. These questions help children see how faith impacts their life and equips them to share their faith in a normal and realistic manner.*

Standard 12 CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Know critique and apply social justice and stewardship principles to societal situations in a way that acknowledges and affirms the dignity of the human person and community.

- ⌘ *Explain how Jesus reached out to the poor, the lonely and the suffering and asks us to do the same.*
- ⌘ *Understand that the Church teaches us that we must help the poor and needy.*



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- ⌘ **Identify that the Church teaches that we must work for a more just and fair society and world.**
- ⌘ **Explain that human life is sacred from its beginning to its natural end.**
Describe that God created humans with bodies and souls.
- ⌘ **Compare our adoption as sons and daughters of God through Baptism to adoption into a human family.**
- ⌘ **Define stewardship as responsibility for all God's creation.**
- ⌘ *Understand that we are all called to overcome evil and be responsible stewards.*

Standard 13 **INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with Jews, Muslims, and all faith traditions.

- ⌘ **Understand that there are many religions but only one God.**
- ⌘ **Identify Judaism as the religion of God's covenant with Abraham.**
Recognize the psalms as Jewish prayers found in the Old Testament.
- ⌘ **Identify the religion of Islam as founded on the faith of Abraham.**
Identify the Prophet Muhammad as the founder of Islam and the Qur'an as the sacred scripture of Islam.
- ⌘ *Name the Pillars of Islam practiced by Muslims in their religious tradition.*

Standard 14 **MISSIONARY VOCATION:** Demonstrate an appreciation for Catholic missionary and evangelization efforts through our parish community, its culture, worship, sacramental life, and service.

- ⌘ **Realize that disciples of Jesus are not only called to continually change and reform their lives in light of the teaching of Jesus, but to share what they have learned from him in and through the Church with others.**
Articulate that it is the measure and guide we use for how we should live is the teaching and example of Jesus.
- ⌘ *Recognize that Jesus gave us the Catholic Church to give us grace, his very own life.*
- ⌘ *Understand what Jesus meant when He asks His followers to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations". (M, 28:19)*
- ⌘ **Show understanding that the Catholic Church is entrusted with the mission of Jesus Christ.**
- ⌘ **Explain [evangelization](#).**
Explore all the ways God asked us to care for the world.
- ⌘ *Participate in fundraisers to support parish ministries.*
- ⌘ **Explain "Peace is the work of justice, and the effect of charity."**
- ⌘ *Identify places in our world that need our prayers because of issues of injustice, war, and inequality.*

The most important task of the catechesis of children is to provide, through the witness of adults, an environment in which young people can grow in faith. (NDC, no. 205)