

Third Grade



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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 to 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*, Pope 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).

1. How are catechists to teach in a way that leads children and young people into communion with Jesus Christ? Sacred Scripture is the driving force of all catechesis. The students need to know that the teachings are based upon God's Word. In addition, when the Word of God is spoken, grace is given. We need grace in order to receive Jesus' teaching. The *General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC), (a universal Church document promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 1997) tells us that a primary place to encounter Jesus is through the Sacred Scriptures. The Bible transmits "the very word of God..." [For this reason the Church desires that] "catechesis should be an authentic introduction to Praying with Scripture (*lectio divina - Divine Readings*)," which is a way of meditating upon Scripture and applying it to one's life (GDC #127). "*Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*" (Psalm 119:105).
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 (GDC #128). This gives students the context for all the content of our catechesis. (See Overview section, page 19-20 and CREED, page 6, number 1.
3. The doctrinal content of our 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. Holiness of life is essential in order for the catechist's teaching to bring others into intimacy with Jesus Christ. Teachers 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" (*Evangelization in the Modern World*, Pope Paul VI, #41).

In the Curriculum that follows, please note that a truth of the Faith that is being introduced will be **bolded**.

When introducing a new aspect of a teaching, present a brief overview of the truth of the Faith in the context of the Big Picture which is developed in the Overview pages 2-6, helping the students to simply understand the teaching and to see how it is connected to their life.

All other teachings of the Faith, which are not bolded, were introduced in a previous grade and are to be reinforced, leading to greater understanding and integration into the students' lives.

Profile of a Third Grade Child

Characteristics

Children at this level seek group identification; they have a special group of friends, usually all boy or all girlfriends. They define their roles and duties from the community in which they live. This is the “good boy” or “nice girl” period during which it is important to follow accepted expectations.

Eight-year-old children begin to take responsibilities seriously, but are very sensitive, at times moody, and easily disturbed by criticism from adults. They are developing a positive, though quite fragile, self-image. Strong adult support is still very much needed.

These children, because of their growing group consciousness, enjoy events in which they have a role in planning: planning prayer services, dramatizing stories from the Gospel and planning such events as an All Saints Day party.

Faith Development Needs

Children at this stage like time to be alone. Thus it is appropriate to introduce meditative and spontaneous prayer, as well as silent prayer. It is helpful for third-graders to be given the opportunity to reflect on what was presented in a teaching and to pray by themselves. This contemplative method of prayer does not in any way exclude public, spontaneous and formal prayer. The “Praying with Scripture” *Lectio Divina* prayer worksheet can be used verbally with third grade students, helping them to learn how to relate the Scriptures to their own life. Visit diolc.org/catechesis/catechist-training-resources-for-teaching/praying-with-scripture

Eight-year-olds need stimulating personal and group relationships that foster feelings of belonging and being cared for and cared about. To feel good about their exposure to the Christian community, they need constant reassurance that adults, even when they punish, love them and will not turn away from them. Stories about the love of Jesus demonstrate that God always loves us, even though He does not approve of our wrong deeds.

Due to their need for group identification, children at this age begin to think they are not only different from others, but also better. They need to realize that each person is created by God and therefore, deserving of respect and love. They can be taught loving attitudes and behaviors by hearing stories about missionaries, saints, and including modern day saints such as Mother Teresa.

The child begins to learn that joy and peace come from knowing God, loving God, living by His Ten Commandments, following His guidance, growing in virtue and serving Him by serving others.

Learning to live as Jesus wants us to will require training. The way that we make good and holy choices is through the exercise of virtue. A virtue is a good moral habit. We develop the Cardinal Virtues (moral virtues) of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance through education, deliberate acts and perseverance in struggle. These efforts are purified and elevated by God’s grace (CCC 1810).

Children are to be helped to grow in the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. Leading the children to a deeper friendship with Jesus will take place through learning Bible Stories, learning the teachings of the Church, taking time for daily prayer, and growing in a specific virtue. See the Diocesan Virtue Program at diolc.org/catechesis/understanding-and-living-the-virtues.

<u>Prudence:</u>	Discovering our true good and choosing the right means of achieving it (Simplified definition) making a right judgment
<u>Justice:</u>	Giving the proper due to God and neighbor Being fair
<u>Fortitude/Courage:</u>	Firmness in the pursuit of good The courage to do what is right
<u>Temperance:</u>	Moderating the attraction of the pleasures of the senses that provides balance in the use of created goods Acting with self discipline or self control (CCC 1803-1809)

Example: The virtue of justice is exercised when children are fair in playing sports.
The virtue of temperance is exercised when children take two slices of pizza instead of five.

The catechist can help the children to choose to be good out of love for God by loving and respecting others. This will require that children be helped to develop the virtues so that they become habits in order to guide their conduct (CCC 1805-1809). According to *the Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality: Guidelines for Education within the Family* (hereafter TM), from the age of innocence until the time of puberty, children are to be trained in friendship skills and virtuous living. Developing the virtue of temperance involves formation in self-discipline and self-control. The virtue of temperance is the foundation of the virtue of chastity, which allows us to overcome the temptation to look upon or use another person as an object for pleasure and sexual satisfaction rather than a person to be loved. The virtue of chastity also needs to be developed.

The document notes that for children in the years of innocence, “this period of tranquility and serenity must never be disturbed by unnecessary information about sex” (TM #78). Chastity is training in the “gift of the person” (CCC 2346). “Chastity is not to be understood as a repressive attitude. On the contrary, chastity should be understood rather as the purity and temporary stewardship of a precious and rich gift of love, in view of the self-giving realized in each person’s specific vocation...Chastity means the successful integration of sexuality within the person and thus the inner unity of man in his bodily and spiritual being”(TM #4). The integration of sexuality means self-mastery, in controlling desires and submitting them to love and respect as ordered to the gift of self. “The virtue of chastity blossoms in friendship” (CCC 2347).

“As in the first years of life also during childhood, parents [and teachers] should encourage a spirit of collaboration, obedience, generosity and self-denial in their children, as well as a capacity for self-reflection. In fact, a characteristic of this period of development is an attraction toward intellectual activities. Using the intellect makes it possible to acquire the strength and ability to control the surrounding situation and, before long, to control bodily instincts, so as to transform them into intellectual and rational activities” (TM #86).

“An undisciplined or spoiled child is inclined toward certain immaturity and moral weakness in future years because chastity is difficult to maintain if a person develops selfish or disordered habits and cannot behave with proper concern and respect for others. Parents [and teachers] should present objective standards of what is right and wrong, thereby creating a sure moral framework for life” (TM #86).

It is the understanding of the Catholic Church that parents are the primary educators of their children. In the Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs, formation in chastity will be taught in the context of the moral life with a focus on the dignity of the human person. Human sexuality, which is to include formation in chastity, is the responsibility of the parents.

It is the duty of the parish to help and support parents “in fulfilling their fundamental right and duty to educate their children for love.” (TM #41-47) The Office for Catechesis & Evangelization promotes the use of *Revealed* in the home, a literature based curriculum by Ruah Woods Institute, using richly illustrated stories to delve deeper into the foundational concepts of Theology of the Body, using language all can all understand. Third Grade Themes include "Gift of Self; The Body Reveals the Person; Sin Distorts the Gift; Families are a Gift; Body-Soul Unity." Visit Ruah Woods at www.ruahwoodsinsitute.org/theology-of-the-body-curriculum/theology-of-the-body-for-kids

Implications

Because third-graders are in the “hero-worshipping” stage (even though we should worship God alone) they need models of Christian behavior to emulate. During this time of role identification, the catechist should make sure that stories from Scripture and from the lives of the saints include both heroes and heroines.

Eight-year-olds are developing socially and becoming more aware of the effect they have on a group. The teacher of the Faith can help the children to choose the good that God wills, begin to understand temptations, reject the wrong, and begin to accept greater responsibility for their actions.

Third-graders can be made aware of social ills and human needs resulting from injustice, greed, lack of mercy, violence and war. It is best if they see Christian witnesses who use their God-given gifts to respond to the needs of others.

The catechist must assume responsibility for involving the children in prayer and in Christian service according to God’s unique call of the individual. It is through the catechist’s example as well as his/her instruction that he/she will encourage the children in a life of prayer and response to the call of God. It is essential for the children to have a priest and a consecrated person speak with them.

Note: The Profile of a Third Grade Child, including Characteristics, Faith Development Needs and Implications was adapted from the Diocesan Curriculum, Office for Catechesis, Diocese of Sioux Falls.

Curriculum Guidelines

Theme: God the Father calls us to a life of holiness. We live holy lives by imitating Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit given to us at Baptism strengthens us to live holy lives.

The primary goal for the third grade year is dedicated to greater understanding and formation in reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Jesus Himself in the Holy Eucharist. The focus for this grade level should be on deepening the student's personal relationship with Jesus Christ through daily prayer, reading Bible stories and greater understanding of the Church's teaching.

This formation in Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist are to always include the parents who have the primary responsibility for the education of their children. Families should participate in Mass each Sunday and all Holy Days of Obligation. Parents and children should be encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.

I. Creed - Profession of Faith

Section one on 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 acts first; He continually calls out to us in love, inviting us into an intimate personal relationship. This response to His personal call is faith.

In Third Grade, teachers of the Faith should present a **brief** but fuller explanation than second grade of God's Plan of Salvation History so that students will come to **understand** the Story of God's Family.

The following Truths of Faith should be **reviewed** for greater **understanding** except where a teaching is to be introduced, which will be **bolded**. Scriptures that are bolded are new for this grade.

1. Begin the year by presenting an overview of Salvation History in simple sentences such as the following: (See Overview / Scope , page 19-20 for the complete outline on God's plan of Salvation History).
 - God loves us and created us to be united with Him.
 - Adam and Eve sinned by disobedience and separated themselves from God.
 - God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.
 - Jesus is God. Only God could fix the sin problem that caused by Original Sin. Then sin caused the separation of all people from God. The gates of Heaven were closed with the first sin.
 - Through His Death on the Cross and Resurrection from the dead, our sins were forgiven and we could now be reunited with God.
 - Jesus began the Church and gave us Sacraments to help us to be good.
 - We are united with God when we are baptized. Through receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, we become a child of God and Jesus comes to dwell in our heart.
 - Jesus, through the person of the priest, forgives us and takes away our sin in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - We receive Jesus in Holy Communion and He strengthens us to live by the Ten Commandments.

Note: Sacred Art, the captions that go under the Sacred Art if displayed as a timeline on the wall, and the outline for presenting God's Plan of Salvation History can be downloaded from the Diocesan website: Go to www.dioceseoflacrosse.com/office&ministries/catechesis/SalvationHistoryinArtwork
2. There is only one God. There are three Persons in one God: 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. **Each of the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity gives Himself totally to the others; because they perfectly love each other. They form a communion of Persons. God is love.**

(CCC 234, 232, 237)

3. God reveals to us in Sacred Scripture that there is only one God and He is a Trinity of Persons.
 Deuteronomy 6:4-5 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord...”
 Exodus 2:23-3:14 The Burning Bush: God reveals that He is a personal God.
 Matthew 28:16-20 Jesus said, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...”
 (See Prayer Section, Sign of the Cross)
John 14:11 Jesus said, “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me.”

4. God is our Father Who loves us and cares for us. The Blessed Trinity created each person to be united with Himself. Only we, as human persons, are able to know and love our Creator. We are called to share by knowledge and love, in God’s own life. It was for this end that we were created, and this is the fundamental reason for our dignity. (We respect animals because they are God’s creatures but they do not have dignity – they do not have an immortal soul in which to know and love God.) We are brought into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism. (CCC 426, 356, 301, 759, 375, 2014)

 Genesis 1:1-31 Creation by God: God created us in His image. This means that He created us with an intellect, a will with freedom to choose good or evil and He created us to be in communion with other persons and most especially Himself.

5. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit made everything out of nothing. God is all-powerful: He can do everything; He knows everything; He is all-good; and He looks after us wherever we are. (CCC 296-298, 338)

 Genesis 1:3-25 God created the heavens and the earth, animals and plants. . . God created these things to provide for us and He expects us to take care of them.
 (See Moral Life, number 21 and 22) .
 Psalm 33 “By the Lord’s word the heavens were made.”
 Psalm 8 “When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you set in place.”

6. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person. He is pure Spirit. When John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit came down from Heaven in the form of a dove and rested upon Jesus. We receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives us the strength to follow Jesus as His disciples, especially when it is difficult to follow Him. (CCC 685,1279, 1302-1303)

7. God created angels as spiritual beings, **who are persons without bodies**. 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)

 Matthew 18:10 Our “angels look upon the face of God.”
Psalm 34:7 “The angel of the Lord delivers all who fear God.”
 Psalm 91:10-13 “For God commands the angels to guard you in all your ways.”
Psalm 103:20 Angels are obedient to every command of God.

8. 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. (CCC 391-395)
 Revelation 12:7-9 Satan, the devil, and the other bad angels became demons who rejected God and were cast from Heaven by St. Michael and the good angels.
 John 8:44 Satan is a liar and “the father of lies.”

9. 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 with God through sanctifying grace within their souls – a participation in God’s Divine Life. **As children of God, Adam and Eve could think and love.** (CCC, 362-366, 356-357, 374-376, 1934)

Genesis 1:27 “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them.”
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 **“Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.” God dwells within you.**
John 14:23 **“Jesus answered, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.”**

10. 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 for which they had been created. Adam and Eve no longer had sanctifying grace within their souls. (CCC 396-400, 402-406, 418)

Genesis 2:17 “The Lord God gave man this order, ‘You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. . the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die.’”
Genesis 3:1-7 The Fall from grace through the Original Sin of Adam and Eve.
Genesis 3:9-10 **The Lord God asked the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard You in the garden; but I was afraid, so I hid myself.”**

11. 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). (CCC 410-412, 420-421)

Genesis 3:15 God promised a Redeemer who will be born to the Woman. Mary will be conceived without the stain of original sin – “full of grace.”
Romans 3:23 “...all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God. They are justified freely by His grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus.”
Matthew 16:18 **“You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church.” Christ founded the Catholic Church.**

12. Jesus is God. Jesus came from Heaven to be our Savior. He was born as a baby and grew to be a man so He could share in our human life. He suffered and died on the cross to offer Himself as a perfect sacrifice to His Father to show His love and to make up for our sins. (CCC 464, 233, 461, 463, 443-445)

Mark 1:1 “The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”
Luke 2:11 “For today in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.”
Galatians 4:4-5 **“God sent His Son, born of a woman...”**

13. 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)

14. The Gospels are the most important part of the Bible because they tell us about Jesus’ life, teaching, and how His death and resurrection saved us from sin and united us to Himself. (CCC 125, 426)

Luke 1: 26-38 The Annunciation: The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the Mother of Jesus: Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”
Luke 1:39-45 The Visitation: Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth to serve her in her time of need. Elizabeth was going to have a baby at a very old age.

Luke 2:1-20	The Birth of Jesus: The angel said, "For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."
Matthew 1:18-2:12	The Visit of the Magi: "They prostrated themselves and did Him homage.
Luke 2:22-38	Presentation of Jesus in the Temple: Jesus is consecrated to the Father and to His will.
Luke 2:41-52	Finding Jesus in the Temple doing the will of His Father: Jesus said, "Did you not know I had to be in My Father's house?"

Dignity of the human person

Psalm 139

"Lord, You know me; ... You understand my thoughts from afar."

Passages that show Jesus' love for people

Luke 8:22-25	Jesus calmed the storm at sea.
Luke 8:40-56	Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead.
John 6:1-15	Jesus fed five thousand through the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes.
John 10:14-18	Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd...I lay down my life for My sheep.
Matthew 19:13-15	"Let the children come to Me."
Luke 5: 17-26	Jesus heals a crippled man
Luke 7:11-1	Jesus raises a widow's son
Luke 10:29-37	The Parable of the Good Samaritan
Luke 11:1	Jesus taught the Apostles to pray the Our Father.

15. Jesus founded the Catholic Church, the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. **After He returned to the Father, Jesus sent to His followers the Gift of the Holy Spirit to help guide the Apostles and the Church in carrying on His work. We receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The Holy Spirit helps us to act like Jesus.** The Church, like Jesus, teaches us about God. Like Jesus, the Church feeds the poor, cares for the sick, and helps us to know how to act. (CCC 541-542, 731, 857)

Luke 6:12-16	Jesus chooses the twelve Apostles
Matthew 17: 1-8	Jesus shows His glory
Matthew 19:28-40	Jesus enters into Jerusalem
Matthew 26:26-30	Jesus gives us the Eucharist
John 19:17-30	Jesus' Death: Jesus loved us so much that He gave His life for us to save us from our sins and so we could be with Him forever in Heaven. Jesus gives Mary to us to be our spiritual Mother.
Luke 24: 1-12	Jesus' Resurrection: Jesus overcame death by rising from the dead so that we can live with Him forever in Heaven.
Luke 24:1-12	Jesus appears to the women
John 20: 24-29	Jesus appears to Thomas
Luke 24: 50-53	Jesus ascends to Heaven
Acts 2:1-8	Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the Church

16. The New Testament tells us how the Church began. Jesus chose twelve men to be the leaders of His Church with Peter as the Head, the first Pope. Our Pope and Bishops continue Christ's work of bringing us closer to God.

17. Jesus is with us through the Church. The Church loves and cares for us the way Jesus does; the Church teaches us what Jesus taught and helps us to know how to act. Through the Church we receive the Sacraments, in which Jesus shares His love and strength with us through sanctifying grace. (CCC 1086-1087, 1210, 1212)

Acts 9: 1-19 Saul's conversion on coming to know Jesus

18. Heaven is the place of perfect happiness and love. Hell is the place of physical torment and the eternal separation from God where there is no love. Our soul gives life to our bodies and lives on after the body dies.

II. Sacraments – Celebration of the Christian Mystery

Section two focuses on the Sacraments. Sacraments communicate God's grace, which unites us with Him and strengthens us to remain in communion with Him. Through the Sacraments God communicates a share in His Divine Life out of love for us. We are to approach the Sacraments with expectant faith and proper dispositions so as to receive the grace that Christ intends to give. Sanctifying grace transforms our hearts and leads us to a way of life that is lived in imitation of Christ.

In Third Grade, students are to **review** for greater **understanding** the following Truths of Faith except where a teaching is to be **introduced**. The line will be bolded. Scriptures are also bolded that are new for this grade.

1. A Sacrament is a sacred sign instituted by Christ to give grace. Jesus shares Himself and His love with us through the Sacraments. (CCC 1131, 1210, 1114-1115)
2. **Due to the effects of original sin, we need sanctifying grace to know, love and serve God. Sanctifying grace, which is a participation in God's Divine Life, is received in the sacraments.** (CCC 1116-117, 1129, 1263-1264)
3. The seven Sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation (also called Confession and Penance), Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. (CCC 1210, 1423-1424)
4. The Sacraments are our deepest encounters with Jesus on earth. Through the Sacraments we have *communion* with Jesus – we become united with Him.
5. **The Sacraments are ordinarily celebrated in a Church where the family of God comes together as a community to worship Him. The Church is a house of God and is sacred especially because Jesus is offered on the altar in the sacrifice of the Mass and He is present in the tabernacle.** (CCC 1181, 832, 1379)
6. Sunday is the Lord's Day. It is the day that Jesus rose from the dead and for this reason, we keep Sunday holy by attending Mass and devoting time to family, leisure, rest and works of charity. (CCC 2184, 2172)
7. The following liturgical gestures are outward signs that reflect our inward love and respect for God: genuflection, kneeling, Sign of the Cross, folding hands for prayer, blessing ourselves with Holy Water. For example, we genuflect upon entering a Catholic Church as a sign of adoration because Jesus is truly present in the tabernacle. (CCC 1153-1155, 1208)
8. **The liturgical year is the Church's calendar in which we celebrate the life and saving work of Christ, as well as honor Mary and the saints. There are liturgical seasons throughout the year in which we remember the different aspects of the Paschal Mystery of Christ.**
 - a. **Advent:** devoted to preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas and the coming of Christ at the end of time
 - b. **Christmas:** the yearly celebration of the birth of Jesus (Nativity) and His early life
 - c. **Lent:** the primary penitential season reflecting the forty days Jesus spent fasting and praying in preparation of the celebration of the Paschal Mystery
 - d. **Easter Triduum:** the Passion and Resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire year
 - e. **Easter Season:** the joyful celebration of the Resurrection of Christ
 - f. **Ordinary Time:** celebrates the life of Christ and His saving work in all its aspects. (The term *Ordinary* comes from the word *ordinal*, which means a specified order. Here Ordinary does not mean commonplace.)

9. Different colors are used for the liturgical celebrations and seasons throughout the year.

Advent: purple, rose
 Christmas: white
 Epiphany: white
 Ordinary Time: green
 Lent: purple, rose
 Holy Week: purple and red
 Easter: white, gold
 Pentecost: red
 Martyrs: red
 Mary: white
 (CCC 1168, 1171, 2698, 1438)

10. Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth. Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas. Lent is a time of preparation for the Resurrection. Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. (CCC 1168-1171)

11. Students need to learn the name(s) of the parish priest(s), bishop and pope.

12. The following are to be identified in the church:

adoration chapel	alb	altar	baptismal font
Blessed Sacrament	bread	chalice	ciborium
confessional	crucifix	cruets	holy water
holy water font	holy oils	host	incense
Lectionary	monstrance	prayer book	paten
pew	Sacramentary	sanctuary light	Stations of the Cross
stole	tabernacle	votive candle	vestments

Sacrament of Baptism

In Third Grade, the students are to be led to **deeper understanding** of the following Truths of Faith and the teachings that are **bolded** are to be **introduced**. The Scriptures that are **bolded** are new for this grade.

1. Baptism is the gateway to all the other Sacraments. In Baptism, the Blessed Trinity comes to dwell within the person's soul, making him/her a child of God and member of His family, the Church.

(CCC 1213-1215, necessity: CCC 1257-1261, 1265, 1267-1270)

For catechist's reference: Baptism of desire: CCC 1258-1260, unbaptized babies who die: CCC 1261)

Scriptures related to Baptism (CCC 1217-1222)

Genesis 6:9-9:17	Noah's Ark (prefigures Baptism): God cleansed the earth of people who did not love God with the floodwaters and saved Noah and his family by having them build the Ark.
Exodus 14:5-31	Moses and the parting of the Red Sea: God made the Israelites His people by bringing them to safety through the waters of the Red Sea.
John 3:1-21	Jesus said that we enter the Kingdom of God by being baptized.
Luke 3:21-22	The Baptism of Jesus: "You are My beloved Son, with You I am well pleased.
Matthew 28:16-20	Jesus gave this mission to His Apostles: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

2. Through Baptism we receive:
 - a. Cleansing from original sin and forgiveness of all personal sin committed before Baptism.
 - b. Sanctifying grace, which is a share in the life of the Blessed Trinity, makes us children of God, members of the Body of Christ, and temples of the Holy Spirit and co-heirs of the Kingdom.
 - c. An indelible mark on our souls (can never be repeated or removed). The Gifts necessary to live as children of God. (CCC 1266) (three Theological Virtues - CCC 1813, seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit - CCC 1831) (effects: CCC 1262-1274, 1279-80)
 3. Through Baptism, we receive the three Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. These virtues come from God and lead us back to Him. The theological virtues are the foundation of the Christian moral life. We also receive the seven supernatural Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are wisdom, understanding, right counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord (awe and wonder before the Lord). These gifts are given for personal growth in holiness and to sustain the moral life. (CCC 1265-1266, 1812-1813, 1830-1831)
 4. The symbols of Baptism are: baptism with water, anointing with oil of catechumens and chrism, the clothing of the white garment and the reception of the candle lit from the Easter candle. Students need to be taught the Rite of Baptism (CCC 1234-1245 symbols)
- Through Baptism, we come to know and love God by “faith” and “charity.” Baptism gives us a new “dignity” (worth) as adopted sons and daughters of God. (CCC 1265)**
5. **Every Catholic child can be given a saint’s name at Baptism. It may be the first name or the middle name. This saint becomes the child’s patron saint and “provides a model of charity.” Children need to study the lives of their patron saints and ask for the saint’s intercession. Children may take the patron saint whose feast day falls on their birthday. (CCC 2156)**
(Note to catechist: “The ‘baptismal name’ can also express a Christian mystery or Christian virtue.

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Penance

In Third Grade, the students are to be led to **deeper understanding** of the following Truths of Faith and the teachings that are **bolded** are to be **introduced**. The Scriptures that are **bolded** are new for this grade.

1. The Sacrament after Baptism in which we confess our sins and ask to receive Jesus’ mercy and forgiveness is called the Sacrament of Confession or Forgiveness or Penance or Reconciliation or Conversion. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we confess to the priest who acts in the person of Christ, because Jesus gave to priests the authority to absolve us from sin in His name (See John 20:21-23; CCC 1423-1424, 1486-90, 1495-1496)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

John 20:19-23 Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Mark 2:1-12 **“Child, your sins are forgiven.”**

Luke 5: 17-26 **“Who but God alone can forgive sins?”**

Psalms 51 **“Against You, You alone, have I sinned and done what is evil.”**

2. Sin is primarily turning away from God, an offense against God, that damages our relationship with Him, and at the same time, damages the Church and our relationship with others. We are healed and strengthened in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (CCC 1440, 1849-1852, 1443-1445)

3. Only God is able to forgive sins. However, Jesus entrusted His own exercise of the power of forgiving sins to His Apostles on Easter Sunday night. The Apostles handed on this power to their successors, the bishops and to the priests who share in the ministry of the bishop. (CCC 1441-1445, John 20:19-23, 1456, 1461, 1466)
4. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can tell Jesus, in the person of the priest, that we are sorry for our sins and receive His forgiveness.
5. There is mortal (deadly) and venial sin. Mortal sin is saying no to God through a serious disobedience of God's laws of love. Mortal sin destroys our friendship with Jesus causing the loss of sanctifying grace. It results in the loss of charity. For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must be present: serious matter, full knowledge of the evil act, and full consent of the will. Mortal sin completely separates us from God. Venial sin is breaking a commandment in a less serious matter that hurts our friendship with Jesus. (CCC 1855, 1857, 1855-1864, 1455-1458).
6. The guaranteed way to be reconciled with God after committing a mortal sin is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When we are sorry and seek forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives us. True contrition involves sorrow for sin and a firm commitment not to sin again. (CCC 1496-1497, 1451, 1456)
7. A priest can never reveal what is heard in confession. There is no exception. This is called the sacramental seal of Confession. (CCC 1467)
8. Five steps to make a good confession: (CCC 1491-94)
 - 1) Pray to the Holy Spirit to help me know my sins and then make an examination of conscience. (CCC 1448, 1454)
 - 2) Pray for the grace to be sorry for my sins (CCC 1448, 1451)
 - 3) Make up my mind not to sin again (contrition) (CCC 1448, 1451)
Note: Contrition involves sorrow for sin and firm purpose to change.
 - 4) Go to confession
 - a. Make the Sign of the Cross.
 - b. Tell my sins to the priest. (Each mortal sin must be confessed - trying to remember the number of times the sin was committed). (CCC 1446, 1448, 1495)
 - c. Listen to the guidance of the priest to help me break sinful habits.
 - d. Pray the Act of Contrition (with true sorrow and a firm purpose to change).
 - e. Prayerfully listen to the words of absolution:
God, the Father of mercies, through the death and the resurrection of His Son has reconciled the world to Himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God grant you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (CCC 1449)
 - 5) After leaving the confessional, pray or do the penance the priest gives you and thank God for forgiving your sins. The penance given by the priest is an act (such as a prayer or an act of charity) whereby the sinner makes amends for sin, especially in reparation to God to show sorrow for offenses against Him. (CCC 1459-146)
9. We need to understand that the Sacrament of Confession / Reconciliation is important for preparing to receive the other Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. We must be in the state of grace to receive the Holy Eucharist. (CCC 1415, 1421, 1468-1470, 1865-1869)
10. Mother Church encourages us, especially parents taking their children, to frequent the Confession. This helps us to be purified, strengthened, and enlightened to live the Christian life.

11. **We are obliged to confess serious sins at least once a year. Confession of venial sins is strongly recommended by the Church on a regular basis.**

The regular confession of our venial sins helps us:

- **form our conscience**
- **fight against evil tendencies and break sinful habits**
- **allows Christ to heal the wounds of our sins**
- **helps us to progress in the life of the Spirit**

(CCC 1457-1458)

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist

In Third Grade, the students are to be led to **deeper understanding** of the following Truths of Faith and the teachings that are **bolded** are to be **introduced**. The Scriptures that are **bolded** are new for this grade.

1. At the Last Supper Jesus changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood. This change of substance is called transubstantiation. Jesus ordained the Apostles as His first priests and told them to celebrate this memorial until His return. (CCC 1323, 1337-1341)

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist

Matthew 26:26-30

Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper. “This is My Body...This is My Blood.”

2. The priest is a man who has been called by God through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The priest represents Jesus in celebrating the seven Sacraments and leading us in prayer. (CCC 1536, 1591-1592, 1598, 1581, 1552)

3. The bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus when the priest prays Jesus’ words, “This is My Body, This is My Blood.” The Holy Eucharist continues to look and taste like ordinary bread and wine after the consecration (transubstantiation = change of substance), though the substance has changed. This is what we mean when we say Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist. (Matthew 26: 26-29; Mark 14: 22-25; Luke 22: 14-20; CCC 1353, 1371, 1413)

4. Jesus gives us His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, which helps us to give God the Father our love, obedience, and service.

5. **The Sacrifice of the Mass makes present Jesus’ Sacrifice of the Cross; Jesus is offered on the altar again but without shedding His Blood. Together with the priest, we offer Jesus to the Father, the most perfect gift we can ever give to God. We also offer our love, obedience, and service to the Father like Jesus.** (CCC 1362, 1364)

6. **There are two main parts of the Mass in which we come together to pray as one family.** (CCC 1348; 1408)

Liturgy of the Word (CCC 1349)

- **the readings through which we listen to God’s Word from the Bible** (CCC 1349)
- **these readings include: a first reading, usually from the Old Testament; a second reading mainly from the letters of St. Paul; and the Gospel from Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. We stand for the Gospel reading out of reverence because we are hearing the life and words of Jesus. At Mass during the weekday, there are only two readings.**
- **the Gospel is proclaimed by either the priest or deacon**

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- the presentation and preparation of the gifts in which we prepare to thank God and offer ourselves with Jesus to the Father (CCC 1350)
 - in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest prays the words of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus (CCC 1352-1354, 1408)
 - the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father, is "the most perfect of prayers" of the Church given to us by the Lord Jesus (CCC 2774, 2765 2759)
 - the words to prepare to receive Jesus: "Lord, I am not worthy to receive You, but only say the word and I shall be healed." (CCC 1386)
 - in the reception of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist we become tabernacles of the living God (CCC 1179, 1331, 1355, 1388)
 - prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus after receiving Him in Holy Communion
 - the dismissal in which we are blessed and sent forth in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another (CCC 1332, 1397)
7. Only a priest, through the power of the Holy Spirit, can consecrate bread and wine so that it becomes the Body and the Blood of Jesus. (CCC 1120, 1411)
8. Jesus addresses an invitation to us, urging us to receive Him in the sacrament of the Eucharist. To respond to this invitation we must *prepare ourselves* for so great and so holy a moment. Before Mass when we kneel down in the pew, it is good to
- close our eyes and remember that Jesus is truly present in the tabernacle.
 - ask the Holy Spirit to help us to pray, letting go of all distractions and plans.
 - pray, slowly, an Our Father or another prayer to prepare for Mass.
- (CCC 1385, 2670)
9. Know what is necessary to receive the Eucharist
- We must believe in Jesus and that He is truly present in the Holy Eucharist (CCC 1355)
 - We must be free from grave (mortal) sin (CCC 1385)
 - A person in the state of mortal sin must not receive Holy Communion till he/she is able to
 - receive forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession / Reconciliation.
 - If a person dies in the state of unrepented mortal sin, he/she cannot enter Heaven as mortal sin is choosing against God. (CCC 1415)
 - We must observe the fast required by the Church, specifically not to eat or drink anything other than water for one hour before Holy Communion (CCC 1387)
 - Bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment – being united with the Son of God. (CCC 1387)
10. The way in which we receive Our Lord in the Eucharist shows the deep respect and depth of our belief that this is Jesus. (CCC 1061-1065)
- This should include:
- Being recollected and focusing on Our Lord
 - In approaching Jesus, we reverence Him with a profound bow
 - Receiving Him reverently either on our hand, which should form a throne or on the tongue
 - Saying the word Amen (I believe) in response to the priest saying "The Body of Christ"

11. Once we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, we kneel down in prayer and thanksgiving.

We may close our eyes to give Him our full attention. We silently pray to Him and He listens. Jesus is pleased when we share our life with Him. (CCC 2637)

12. We want to realize that Jesus is present in the Church, even after Mass, because the consecrated hosts are reserved in the tabernacle. We may be with Jesus and adore Him in church at any time. The sanctuary candle that is lit means Jesus is present in the tabernacle. (CCC 1377-1381)

Recommended Books

My Booklet About the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (Leaflet Missal Company)

Receiving Holy Communion, Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D. (Catholic Book Publishing Co)

My Booklet About God's Love and Forgiveness (Leaflet Missal Company)

The Ten Commandments, Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D., (Catholic Book Publishing Co)

Going to Confession, Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D. (Catholic Book Publishing Co)

III. Life In Christ

Section three is about how we should respond to God by the way we live. As His children, we should live as God has asked. The Ten Commandments are God's laws of love for all His people. Knowing God's laws helps us to do what is right and good.

In Third Grade, the students are to be led to **deeper understanding** of the following Truths of Faith and the teachings that are **bolded** are to be **introduced**. The Scriptures that are **bolded** are new for this grade.

1. God is love. God reveals His love through creation. God created us in His image and likeness and loves each person completely. We are children of God, Who is our loving Father.
(CCC 220-221, 2083, 2086, 1701-1703, 219)
2. Since we are created in the image and likeness of God and He loves us, He wills that we love ourselves. We show love for our soul by striving for holiness, through loving God and our neighbor. We show love for our body by proper hygiene, by protecting it from harm and through modesty. Modesty is decency in dress. (CCC 356-357, 2521-2524, 1264, 2514)
3. Since all people are created in the image and likeness of God and He loves each person, He wills that we love all people. To love means to will the good of another. Willing the good of another means to be selfless instead of selfish. Jesus wants us to treat others with kindness. Loving and helping others brings us joy. (CCC 225, 357, 1766, 2447, 2262)
4. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are for each person to know how to live as a child of God: to love God and our neighbor. The Ten Commandments are God's laws of love for all His people. When we are baptized we become God's children. Therefore, these laws are for us, too. Knowing God's laws helps us to do what is right. Doing the right thing is not always the easy way. We need God's help, through the gift of His grace, to do the right thing.
(CCC 2056-2057, 2060-2063, 2067, 2072-2074, 1724)
5. Students are to memorize the Ten Commandments, become familiar with the major point of each commandment and understand their meaning in a manner that applies to their life.)
(CCC 2057, 2061, 2083)

The Ten Commandments - God's laws of love

Exodus 20: 2-6 The First Commandment: There is only one God. You shall not have other gods besides Me.

Matthew 22:37 **Jesus summed up our duties toward God in saying: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."**

The "other gods" that can pull us away from God are things such as toys, nice clothes, pleasures and money. These things are good and we can enjoy them but we must not let them take our attention away from God. The things of this earth will pass away, but God is forever and He has destined us to live with Him forever. Nothing can compare with God and the gifts that He provides. That is why He comes first in our lives.

Jeremiah 29:8 All forms of *divination* are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to "unveil" the future such as consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, ouiji boards etc. (See CCC 2115-2117). God does not want us to be superstitious. This would insult our Lord instead of giving Him glory.

Exodus 20:7	The Second Commandment: God's name is Holy. You shall not use God's name in vain.
Psalms 8:1	"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth."
Exodus 20:8-11	The Third Commandment: Remember to keep God's day holy.
Exodus 20:12	The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and mother.
Deuteronomy 5:16	"Honor your father and your mother that you may have a long life and prosperity."
Exodus 20:13	The Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill.
Exodus 20:14	The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.
Exodus 20:15	The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.
Exodus 20:16	The Eighth Commandment: You shall not lie.
Exodus 20:17	The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
Exodus 20:17	The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.
John 14:15	Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep my Commandments."

6. Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments in the Two Great Commandments:
 - a) Love God with all your heart.
 - b) Love your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus became man to show us who we are and how we are to act. When we make right choices we act as Jesus taught us.

7. We love God our Heavenly Father by praying to Him. We show Him our love by going to Mass every Sunday. At Church we worship the Blessed Trinity with all the members of God's Family. We also show our love for God by talking about Him with respect and great love. (CCC 2083-2086, 2098, 2142-2144, 2168-2178)
8. We love our neighbor by being kind and helpful to everyone we meet. We should love our parents and obey them and others in authority cheerfully. We should share things with other children and always tell the truth. We should pray each day, especially for those who need God's help: the poor, the sick, those who are unhappy, and people who do not know or love God. (CCC 2214-2215, 2216-2217, 2401, 2443-2445, 2464,)
9. **Adam and Eve lost God's life, which we call sanctifying grace, when they sinned through disobedience. This is the Original Sin. We all inherit original sin from Adam and Eve. Due to the effects of original sin, we are inclined and tempted to sin.** (CCC 417-418)
10. We commit personal sin when: 1) we know something is wrong 2) we have the freedom to choose 3) we do the wrong thing anyway. We can be tempted to sin through our own selfish desires, the Devil, what we see and hear from other people, the TV, the radio, and the Internet. We want to take these temptations to Jesus in our regular prayer times. When we are tempted, we can pray and Jesus will help us to overcome the temptation. (CCC 2846-2849)
11. **As children of God, we are invited to share in God's love and life by treating people the way God wants us to by living according to the Ten Commandments. Like Adam and Eve, we are tempted, which means having thoughts or being urged or pushed to do the wrong thing. However, we do not sin if we refuse to do the wrong thing.**
12. **It is good to develop the virtue of modesty, which guides our choice of how to dress properly.**
13. There are two kinds of sin: *venial* sins and *mortal* sins. Venial sins are little sins but they hurt our friendship with Jesus. Most sins are venial sins. Mortal sins are very serious sins. We say no to our friendship with Jesus as mortal sin destroys our relationship with Him through the loss of sanctifying grace, the life of God within our soul. We cannot go to Heaven if there is a mortal sin on our soul. (CCC 1855, 1857-1860)

Examples of mortally sinful actions: Serious offenses against God include blasphemy (saying hateful things against God) and failing to attend Sunday Mass due to your own fault. Serious offenses against a neighbor, include stealing and lying.

14. It is important to examine our conscience and pray a sincere Act of Contrition every night.
In examining our conscience, we ask ourselves:
 - Did I set aside time to pray to God today?
 - Did I listen to and obey my parents and teachers?
 - Was I kind to everyone or how was I selfish? Did I forgive someone who hurt me?
15. Each person is invited to a personal friendship with Jesus Christ. From the moment of our baptism, God calls each person by name and has a special plan for his/her life (cf. Isaiah 43:1. The call from God is called a vocation. This special plan for our life will bring us the greatest joy and peace.
16. **God has given each person unique talents and gifts. God has a special plan for each person's life to use these gifts in the service of others and the building of His Kingdom.**
17. ***The heart of Catholic Social Teaching is ultimately to lead people to God.***
(CCC 863-864, 2105, 2420)
18. ***The Ten Commandments provide the foundation for Catholic Social Teaching.***
(CCC 1959, 2070-2071)
19. After we receive the Sacraments, above all the Holy Eucharist, we are strengthened through the reception of sanctifying grace, the strength to go forth to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving our neighbor.
(CCC 1397, 1396, 1391-1395)
20. God desires that we share what we have been given with others:
 - a) Spiritual gifts - the gift of faith and knowledge about God
 - b) Temporal gifts - our material possessions that have been given to us from God.

The missionary nature of the Church flows from our obligation to share the gifts God has given us with the world through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. With our families, we should look for opportunities to serve those in need and to share the Good News about Jesus.
(CCC 849, 913, 2447 – the works of mercy, 2443-2446)

The Diocese of La Crosse is committed, in particular, to the orphanage Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II in Lurin, Peru and to the care of the Holy Cross Parish in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. (Synod Acts #184)

Project Milk and the Lenten Mite Boxes are an especially important means of providing assistance to the Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II and Holy Cross Parish and are to be faithfully promoted.
(Synod Acts #188)

21. God has given us everything. We need to show our gratitude to God by respecting and taking care of all His gifts. This is what we call stewardship. Farming is the stewardship of the land, plants and animals for the glory of God and the service of His holy people.

Note: Stewardship is serving under the Lord for the care of all of God's creation. Stewardship is not mastery, thinking I own it and can treat nature as I wish, but a service under the Lord to whom the earth belongs. (CCC 2415-2418, 2402, 2408)

22. We were created to have joy and peace and do God's will on earth so that when we die, we can live with Him in Heaven. We believe that Jesus will come again. We believe in the resurrection of the body and that we can live with God forever. God will help us to get ready to live in Heaven.
(CCC 1023-1024, 1020)

IV. Christian Prayer - Third Grade

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 impossible without prayer.

In Third Grade, the students are led to **deeper understanding** of the following Truths of Faith and the teachings that are **bolded** are to be **introduced**.

1. "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." Prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father, with His Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. We are called to pray every day with our families. (CCC 2559, 2659-2660, 2565, 2615)
2. Prayer is a gift from Jesus. Jesus longs for us and calls us to respond to His love in prayer everyday. He gives us the strength through His grace to respond to that call. We can learn about Jesus at home and at school. We cannot know Jesus personally without prayer. (CCC 2567, 2559, 2591)
3. **The Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray and helps us to pray with our heart which strengthens our relationship with Jesus.** (CCC 2650, 2670, 2672, 2657)
4. Daily prayer and living the Christian life are inseparable. Doing the will of God and reaching Heaven is only possible through prayer. We cannot forgive enemies, understand suffering and love God above all things without prayer. (CCC 2744-2745, 2757, 2752, 1023-1024)
5. God hears every prayer that we make and answers every prayer in a way that is best for us even if we do not always understand God's ways. He is always faithful and is with us through all our joys and sorrows in life. (CCC 2610-2616)
6. **The Mass is the highest form of prayer. At the Mass, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. The Holy Eucharist is the deepest encounter between God and us on this earth because we are able to literally to be united with Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.** (CCC 1374, 1391, 1324-1325, 1407)
7. We need to participate fully in mind and heart in the prayers of the Sunday Mass. Each person is called to actively participate in the Mass by praying and singing. (CCC 1071)
8. **The Bible is the written Word of God and has an important place in Church. The Bible should also be read in the classroom and at home.** (CCC 101-104)
9. **The Gospels are the most important part of the Bible because they tell us about Jesus' life, teaching, and how His death and resurrection saved us from sin and opened the gates of Heaven. We are to strive to know Jesus personally through the Gospel stories.** (CCC 125, 129)
10. **We know how much Jesus loves us because He allowed Himself to be crucified so that our sins could be forgiven. One way to remind ourselves of His great love is to pray in front of the crucifix. This symbol of love draws us to serve God and our neighbor more lovingly.**
11. God has provided us with many things, which help us to understand that God loves us. We show our love for Jesus by being devoted to His Sacred Heart. This is a devotion to the love of God, in which the symbol of this love is the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
12. **We can pray to Mary when we need help; she will pray to Jesus for us and will help us to get to Heaven. We can pray to our guardian angel to guide and protect us.**

13. The memorization of basic prayers offers an essential support to the life of prayer. It is also important to help students savor their meaning. (CCC 2688)

Students should memorize the following prayers: (new prayers are bolded)

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Prayer to my Guardian Angel
- Act of Contrition
- Apostles Creed
- **The Morning Offering**
- **Prayer to prepare for Mass**
- **Prayer of Thanksgiving After Receiving Jesus in Holy Communion**

***Note to the Catechist:** Please reinforce the children praying the Apostles' Creed and knowing it by heart. Memorization tool: There are three basic parts to the Apostles' Creed: the section on God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.*

14. The Our Father is the prayer that Jesus taught us. **We want to pray the “Our Father” every day, asking God for all that we need.** (CCC 2765, Matthew 6: 9-13)
15. **There are four forms of prayer: Adoration (praise and blessing), Contrition (repentance), Thanksgiving (gratitude), and Supplication (asking God for things). This can be memorized simply by the acronym ACTS: adoration, contrition, thanksgiving and supplication. In all prayer, we are lifting up our hearts and minds to God.** (CCC 2626-2649)
16. In addition to referring to the Church as the People of God, the word “Church” can also refer to a sacred building in which Christ is present in the tabernacle. The Church is where members of God’s Family come together to worship the Lord and pray together. Believers are quiet when visiting a Church in order to pray. (CCC 1181, 1180)
17. It is appropriate to be quiet when visiting a Catholic Church because Jesus is present in the tabernacle and we want to speak to and listen to Him. We also want to show respect for those who are praying in Church by maintaining an atmosphere of prayerful silence. (CCC 1185)
18. Children should develop a habit of personal prayer both in the morning and the evening, encouraged by parents at home and a consistent commitment of prayer in class.
19. Sacred images, statues, saints' pictures, a crucifix, holy water, and the rosary are reminders of God’s presence in our lives. Sacred images such as statues, icons and paintings help us to pray. Students should be encouraged to pray before the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that is displayed in the classroom. It is important to have these blessed objects in our home and at school to be mindful of God’s love for us and His constant presence in our lives. (CCC 478, 1159-1162, 1674, 2132)
20. **“God is love” (1 John 4:8) and He loves each person. A symbol of God's love is the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jesus is the King of Love and the King of our homes. It is good to have an image of the Sacred Heart at home and in the classroom to remind us of Jesus' infinite love for us.** (1 John 4: 8, CCC 478)
21. The Rosary is a wonderful form of prayer by which we meditate upon the mysteries of Christ’s life and ask for Mary’s intercession. **The Rosary includes the Hail Mary, which is a Scriptural prayer** (CCC 971, 2678, 2708, 1674, 2678)

22. **The Stations of the Cross are a devotion we pray during Lent. These Stations follow the fourteen steps of Our Lord's intense suffering that concludes with His crucifixion, death and burial. (CCC 1674)**
23. **Recite and/or sing selected communal prayers and responses of the Mass:**
- **Responses to Greeting and Penitential Rite**
 - **Responses to the Readings and the Gospel**
 - **Response to Intercessions**
 - **Response to Preparation of Gifts and the**
 - **Eucharistic Preface**
 - **Holy, Holy, Holy**
 - **Memorial Acclamation**
 - **Great Amen**
 - **Our Father**
 - **Response to Sign of Peace**
 - **Lamb of God**
 - **Final Blessing and Dismissal**
24. **To visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ Our Lord. (CCC 1418)**

Recommended Bible Stories, Prayer Books, and Other Spiritual Reading

Going Deeper in Prayer Diocesan Initiative, including a prayer card that makes prayer more personal with accompanying resources, is available here: diolc.org/prayer

Pray Always, Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D. (Catholic Book Publishing Co)

The Way of the Cross for Children (Catholic Book Publishing Co)

My First Prayer Book, Sr. Karen Cavanagh C.S.J., (Regina Press)

My Rosary (Daughters of St. Paul)

The Angels: God's Messengers and Our Helpers, Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D. (Catholic Book Publishing Co)

Stations of the Cross, Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D. (Catholic Book Publishing Co) *New Catholic Picture Bible* (Catholic Book Publishing Co)

My Path to Heaven, Caryll Houselander (Sophia Press)

Everyday Graces, A Child's Book of Good Manners, Karen Santorum (ISA Books)

Following Jesus, Father Lovasik, S.V.D. (Catholic Book Publishing Co)

Prayers

The Morning Offering

O my God, I offer You every thought and word and act of today. Please bless me, my God, and make me good today. Amen.

Prayer to prepare for Mass

Jesus, I believe in You. Jesus, I hope in You. Jesus, I love You with all my heart. Jesus, I want so much to receive You into my heart. I long for You. Jesus, I am sorry for all my sins. I know You want me to come to You that You may make me good. Jesus, give me Your grace that I may always please You. Holy Mary, my dearest Mother, pray for me and make my heart ready to receive Holy Communion - Jesus Himself. Amen.

Prayer After Receiving Jesus in Holy Communion

Jesus, I believe in you. Jesus, I hope in You. Jesus, I love You with all my heart. Jesus, I thank You for having come to me. Welcome to my heart and bless me. You are the same Jesus Who loved little children and let them come to You. You are the same Jesus Who gave Your life for me on the Cross and rose from the dead. And now that You are so close to me, I ask You to help me to love You more and to serve You as You want me to serve You. Amen.

Saints

In Third Grade, the students are to be led to **deeper understanding** of the following Truths of Faith and the teachings that are **bolded** are to be **introduced**.

1. Mary watches over us from Heaven with much love. She is a special friend of children. Mary is the Mother of Jesus and she leads us to Him. (CCC 495)
2. God the Father chose Mary to be the Mother of the Savior. God sent the angel Gabriel to ask her to be the Mother of His Son. Mary said yes to God. During the course of her earthly life, she loved God so much that she always said yes to Him. Mary never sinned. (CCC 490, 494, 494)
3. **Mary is the Mother of Jesus. Jesus is God the Son. Therefore, Mary is the Mother of God. Mary was with Jesus when He was crucified, suffering with Him.**
4. Jesus gave Mary to us as our Mother to love and care for us. Mary loves us very much. We should love her as Jesus did and pray to her every day for help and guidance. Mary will keep us from sin and lead us to her loving Son and our Savior. (CCC 964, 967-969)
5. It is important to study the life of Mary because she loves Jesus with all her heart. Furthermore, Mary teaches us about Jesus our Savior. **We can ask Mary to pray for us as she is the Queen of all saints.** (CCC 2618)
6. The Church canonizes certain saints to present them to us as role models or heroes/heroines. The saints teach us by the example of their lives how to follow Jesus faithfully. A saint is a person who came to know and love God, lived a life close to Jesus and is united forever with Him in Heaven. We can be sure that canonized saints are our brothers and sisters in Heaven who can pray for us. Just as we are able to ask friends and family members to pray for us, we can ask the saints in Heaven to pray for us. (CCC See glossary for the definition of a saint, 867, 2030)
7. **The Saints want us to be with them in Heaven and they can pray for us and our needs. This is because there is a Communion of Saints. We should ask them to pray for us, venerate or honor them, and learn about them by reading their lives.** (CCC 956, 957, 959)
8. God wants everyone to be a saint. Our greatest joy and peace are achieved in becoming a saint. (CCC 27)

Recommended Saints Books

Fifty-Seven Saints (Daughters of St. Paul) *six to eight pages per saint*

The Life of Young John Paul II (Daughters of St. Paul)

St. Pius X Story Coloring Book (Tan Books)

Once Upon A Time Saints, Ethel Pochocki (Ignatius Press)

More Once Upon A Time Saints, Ethel Pochocki (Ignatius Press)

Vocabulary

At the end of this grade level, students should **know** the meaning of the following words. Some words are not used in the curriculum.

New Words

abstain	All Saints' Day	alms	almsgiving
anoint	Anointing of the Sick	Apostles (Twelve Apostles)	Ascension
Bread of Life	chrism	church building	ciborium
communion fast	consecrate	consecrated hosts	consecration
corporal	devil	disciples	Epiphany
Eucharistic Prayer	evangelization	Family of God	fasting
followers	holiness	Holy Orders	indelible
indelible spiritual mark	Lamb of God	Last Supper	Lenten abstinence
Lenten fast	liturgy	martyr	Matrimony
monstrance	offer	offering	pastor
parish	People of God	Peter	Pope (Holy Father)
redemptive	sacred chrism	sacrifice	salvation
sanctify	sanctuary	satan	spiritual
sponsor	state of grace	stipend	strength
talents	theological virtues	transubstantiation	will of God
witness	witnesses		

Previous Words:

Absolution	absolve	actual grace	Adam
Adoration	adoration chapel	adore	Advent
Advent candles	Advent wreath	alleluia	all-knowing
all-loving	almighty	altar	altar server
amen	angels	Annunciation	Archangels
Ash Wednesday	ashes	Baptism	baptismal font
bear false witness	believe	Bethlehem	Bible
bishop	Blessed Sacrament	blessing	Blood of Christ
body	Body of Christ	brother	Calvary
chalice	Child of God	Christ	Christmas
Church	commandment	confession	confessional
Confirmation	conscience	contrition	conversion
Creation	Creator cross	creatures	creed
Crucifix	crucifixion	crucify	deacon
Decade	deliberate	demon	dishonesty
Disobey	Easter	Egypt	eternal
Eucharist	Eve	examination of conscience	Faith
faith response	Father	Finding of Jesus in the Temple	font
forgiveness	free will	genuflection	God
god-parent	Good Friday	Gospels	grace
guardian angels	Heaven	heirs	hell
holy	Holy Day	Holy Spirit	Holy Thursday
holy water	Holy Week	hope	host
human	image and likeness	incense	infinite
intercession	Jerusalem	Jesus	Jesus' hidden life
Jesus' public life	Joseph	Kingdom of God	Law of Love
Lent	lie	liturgical year	Liturgy of the Eucharist
Liturgy of the Word	Lord	love	love (charity)
Magi	Mary	Mass	merciful
Mercy	miracles	missalette	mortal
mortal sin	Mount Sinai	mystery	Nativity
obedient	obey	ordinary bread (unleaven)	ordinary grape wine
original sin	parable	paradise	pardon
paten	patron saint	penance	Pentecost

perfect	pew	poor souls	prayer
Precious Blood	Presentation in the Temple	priest	
purgatory	Reconciliation	respect	Resurrection
reverence	Rosary	sacrament	saint
Salvation Story	sanctifying grace	sanctuary light	sin
soul	Stations of the Cross	steal	stole
suffering	Sunday	Sunday rest	tabernacle
temple	Temptation	Ten Commandments	Trinity
venial sin	vestments	Visitation	votive candle
wrong			

Recommended Teacher and Parent Resources

Diocesan Virtue Program is available at diolc.org/catechesis/understanding-and-living-the-virtues.

Raise Happy Children, Teach Them Virtues! (Our Sunday Visitor)

Mary Ann Budnick,

Twelve foundational virtues: obedience, sincerity, order, fortitude, perseverance, patience, industriousness, generosity, freedom, responsibility, justice and charity.

R.B. Media, Inc. 154 Dural, Springfield IL, 62704. www.rbmediainc.com

The Virtue Driven Life, Our Sunday Visitor

Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R

(800) 348-2440, www.osv.com

Go in Peace, Your Guide to the Purpose and Power of Confession

100 Questions and Answers

Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J. and Sean Brown

Ascension Press, www.Ascension Press.com