

4th Grade

Christ at Martha and Mary's - Vermeer

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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 *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 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 Fourth-Grade Child

Characteristics

Enthusiasm, self-confidence and activity characterize this year. This is a period of steady growth in both physical and mental ability. Athletic skill is very important in the development of nine-year-olds for it affects their concept of success in winning and maintaining a coveted place among peers. Intellectually, nine-year-olds are sharpening study skills and becoming capable of a longer attention span. They continue to be interested in living creatures and how they are made.

Fourth-graders are more concerned about right and wrongdoing at this stage. They want to live by rules, and they want others to live by them too. They want to be accepted and to be part of a community. They experience conflict and need to know how to deal with or resolve conflict.

Faith Development Needs

Children at this level are in transition beyond childhood, therefore, they may exhibit behavior that is inconsistent and disorganized. They are prone to quick emotional shifts. They may cry when emotions are overtaxed. They need guidance, understanding, patience and encouragement from adults.

Older persons grow in importance to nine-year-olds, who are inclined toward hero-heroine admiration, especially people of action. They need to hear stories about missionaries, saints and contemporary persons involved in living out the call of God in their lives. This is a good age to introduce the idea of vocations to the priesthood and/or religious life.

Related to their need for freedom to make personal choices is the awareness that this freedom carries the personal responsibility for acting in a Christian way. The understanding and formation of conscience begins to take on a more significant role. Conscience becomes the call or invitation of Jesus to follow Him.

Their interest in law and rule keeping lays the foundation for studying Christ's Law of Love and the Ten Commandments. They need to understand that disobedience weakens the entire community and that Christians need to forgive and seek forgiveness. They can gradually realize that each person is to be respected and loved because of his/her inherent goodness and dignity as a child of God.

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).

<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 sharing their toys.
The virtue of temperance is exercised when children take one cookie instead of five.

The teacher of the Faith 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 as to 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. Therefore, 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. Fourth Grade Themes include "Body - Soul Unity; Dignity of the Human Person; Authentic Love; Marriage is a Gift of God; The Priesthood. Visit Ruah Woods at www.ruahwoodsintstitute.org/theology-of-the-body-curriculum/theology-of-the-body-for-kids.

Implications

Music, art, drama and related activities stimulate the children’s creativity and provide an opportunity for them to express and appreciate religious concepts.

Fourth-graders desire social approval to such a degree that they are becoming conformists. It is the task of the catechist to encourage them to do what is right because it is Jesus’ way, whether it pleases the group or not. The catechist should stress the reasons and the values underlying the rules, as well as the importance of right motives. Moral development includes the desire of the heart to love God and to do God’s will.

Children can be made aware of social ills and human need by becoming involved, in various ways, in social justice activities: helping those in need through a parish activity, being a friend with someone who is not part of the accepted group, sharing the Faith with friends, learning not to waste natural resources. Children of this age level are receptive to the fact that all are called to give of their time, talents and earthly goods.

Nine-year-olds seek and enjoy short periods of time when they can be alone. The catechist can support and nurture this desire by leading the children to quiet, personal prayer and by praying with them.

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 fourth grade year is dedicated to understanding the Kingdom that Jesus established through His Death and Resurrection. Each person is called to enter His Kingdom of Heaven on earth through the Sacrament of Baptism, by which we come to know and love God. We remain part of the Kingdom by cooperating with God's grace, which helps us to love God and our neighbor as ourselves.

Families are to 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 personal response to His call is faith.

In Fourth Grade, catechists should present a full explanation of God's Plan of Salvation History so that students will come to **understand** the Story of God's Family. Scriptures and teachings points that are **bolded** are to be introduced in this grade level.

1. Present the overview of Salvation History.
(See Overview / Scope page 19-20 for the complete lesson plan on God's plan of Salvation History).

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. **The Bible, which is God's Word, contains the writings that were inspired by the Holy Spirit. It was by the Apostolic Tradition that the Catholic Church discerned through prayer "which writings are to be included in the list of the sacred books. This complete list is called the canon of Scripture". It includes 46 books for the Old Testament and 27 for the New. The Bible and the teachings of the Church, which we call Sacred Tradition, are two important sources of our knowledge about God.** (CCC 120, 105, 81)

1 Thessalonians 2:13 "You received not a human word but...the word of God."
2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching."

3. 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, God is a communion of Persons. God is love. (CCC 234, 232, 237)

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. **The Holy Spirit loves Jesus and the Father. Jesus and the Father love the Holy Spirit. We receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism. The Holy Spirit helps us to come to know the Father and the Son.** (CCC 683-684)

1 Corinthians 12:3 “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.”

Galatians 4:6 “God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba!, Father!”

5. God is our Father Who loves us and cares for us. The Blessed Trinity created each person to be in communion with Himself. 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. (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. This is the foundation of our dignity: We are able to enter into a personal relationship with God Himself.

6. **God created the angels. Some angels chose to rebel against God and became devils. Then God created Adam and Eve. God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed to live with Him forever.** (CCC 327, 391-395, 355, 358)

7. **Adam and Eve disobeyed God and lost the gift of grace within their soul, which we call Original Sin. Grace is a share in God’s own Life. God still loved them and promised that He would send a Savior to reunite us with God. God showed His love to His people by entering into mutual promises (covenants) with them. A covenant is a sacred family bond: “He will be our God and we will be His people.”** (CCC 396-398)

Genesis 3 The Original Sin and Promise of a Savior (Genesis 3:15)

Genesis 9:8-17 To Noah God added, “This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the Covenant between Me and you...I set My [rain]bow in the clouds...”

Exodus 6:4-7 To Moses, God said, “I also establish My Covenant with you...you will be my people and I will be your God.”

2 Samuel 7:13 God said to David, “Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before Me; your throne shall stand firm forever.”

Luke 22: 14-20 Jesus said to the Apostles, “This cup is the new covenant in My Blood, which will be shed for you.”

8. **God created us by giving us an immortal soul. Being a “person” who can know and love God gives man and woman a special worth or “dignity.” All persons have equal dignity and dignity cannot be taken away. However, persons differ in talents and abilities but not in dignity. Dignity is not determined by how productive a person is in society. For example, a mentally handicapped person or a terminally ill person has the same dignity as a healthy person. Animals and plants have value and are important to us but they do not have dignity.** (CCC 356-358)

Dignity

Matthew 19:13-15 “Let the children come to Me.”

Psalms 139 “Lord, You know me; ... You understand my thoughts from afar.”

Jeremiah 1:4-10 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...”

Luke 24:33-49 Due to Adam’s sin, God sent us a Redeemer, His only Son. This was an undeserved gift of His mercy and love. He created us out of love and He then redeemed us out of love. The fact that God did become one of us is a great honor to us as His creatures.

9. Jesus is God. Jesus was born as man on the first Christmas as our Savior. **Jesus is both truly God and truly man; as a man, He has a body like ours. As God he is a Divine Person, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity.** (CCC 464, 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"
1 John 4:9 "God sent His Son into the world."
John 1:1-17 "And the Word became flesh."

10. Mary's "yes" to God to be the Mother of Jesus made our salvation possible. Since Mary is the Mother of Jesus and Jesus is God, we rightly call Mary the Mother of God. (CCC 494-495, 497, 509, 485, 723)

Luke 1:26-38 "Hail, full of grace...Behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be called Son of the Most High...and of His Kingdom there will be no end."
Luke 1:39-45 The Visitation: "And how does this happen to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?" Elizabeth calls Mary the Mother of God because the angel Gabriel had told her of this Good News.

11. Jesus came to bring His Kingdom of truth and love, of justice and peace, of holiness and grace. "The Church is the seed and beginning of this Kingdom."
 "Everyone is called to enter the Kingdom" (CCC 567, 543).

The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Mark 1:14-15 "Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming...the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."
 Mark 4:10-20 To enter the Kingdom, one must first accept Jesus' word.
 Luke 4:18 Jesus is sent to "preach good news to the poor."
 "The Kingdom belongs to the *poor and lowly*, which means those who have accepted it with humble hearts" (CCC 544)
 Matthew 21:28-32 To enter the Kingdom, "words are not enough; deeds are required" (CCC 546).
 Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave Me food..."
 Jesus identifies Himself with the poor of every kind and says we must express love toward them the condition for entering His Kingdom (CCC 544).
 Luke 6:27-36 Love of enemies: "Love your enemies and do good to them."

Signs of the Kingdom of God

Luke 7:18-23 "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at Me."
 "The miracles of Jesus manifest that the Kingdom is present in Him and attest that He is the promised Messiah" (CCC 547). A miracle is an act above the laws of nature that only God can perform. Sometimes God performs a miracle to prove that a person He has sent is telling the truth. Since Jesus is God, He worked them by His own power.
 Matthew 8:1-4 "Lord, if You wish, You can make me clean."
 Luke 5:17-26 The Healing of the Paralytic: "Rise, pick up your stretcher and go home."

The Keys of the Kingdom

Mark 3:13-19 “Jesus appointed twelve [whom He also named Apostles].”

Matthew 16:18 “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the powers of Hell shall not prevail against it.”

The Path to the Kingdom

John 14:6 Jesus said, “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me.”

Jesus is the way to Heaven. Only by following Him can you be with Him. Here are some things that you can do to grow closer in your friendship with Jesus:

- Receive Jesus in Holy Communion every Sunday (and more often if possible).
- Talk with Him every day in prayer.
- Follow Him by keeping the Commandments
- Help others as much as you can – think of others first.

Jesus’ call of discipleship

1 Samuel 3:1-19 “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”

1 Samuel 16:1-13 “The Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David.”

John 1:35-51 “Jesus said to Phillip, ‘Follow Me.’”

Jesus calls each person to follow Him.

Jesus’ call to daily prayer

Matthew 6: 7-15 “This is how you are to pray: Our Father...”

Matthew 18:19-20 “If two of you agree about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my Heavenly Father.”

First Step of Discipleship – Living by the Ten Commandments

God’s laws of love See Life in Christ section, #5

Lessons from Scripture

Luke 2:40 Jesus’ hidden life at Nazareth -

Lk. 19:1-10 Story of Zacchaeus –

Jn. 10:11-15 and Ps. 23 The Good Shepherd -

Mt 22:34-40, Mk 12:28-34, Lk 10:25-28, Jn 14:31-55 Jesus teaches the two-fold Law of Love

Mt 7:12 The Golden Rule

12. 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 on the Cross and the forgiveness of our sins.

Jesus gives Mary to us to be our spiritual Mother.

Luke 24: 1-12 Jesus rises from the dead and opens the gates of 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 God the Holy Spirit comes upon the infant Church at Pentecost

II. Sacraments – Celebration of the Christian

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 should lead to a way of life that is lived in imitation of Christ.

In Fourth Grade, students should **review** for greater **understanding** the following truths of Faith except where a teaching is to be **introduced**, which will be bolded. Scriptures that are **bolded** 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 sin of Adam and Eve, we need God's help to be good. God gives us the help we need in the Sacraments. This help is called sanctifying grace, which is a share in God's life and is received in the Sacraments. (CCC 1116-117, 1129, 1263-1264)
3. The seven Sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation (also called Confession or 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 Catholic 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 truly 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 are to attend Mass and devote 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. In the Sign of Peace, the Church asks for peace and unity among us and this sign expresses our communion with each other before receiving Holy Communion. The Sign of Peace is a solemn act and should be reverent.
9. 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).
 - 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.)

10. 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)

11. The name(s) of the parish priest(s), bishop and pope should be known.

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

Note

Liturgy includes the Holy Eucharist, the other six Sacraments, the Liturgy of the Hours, the liturgical year and sacramentals. The Liturgy of the Hours consists of praying mainly the Psalms. It is making the day holy in praying through Christ our Lord. Priests and consecrated persons pray the Liturgy of the Hours at specific times of the day. The lay faithful are invited to participate in this prayer of the Church.

Liturgy means the participation of the people of God in the work of God. The liturgy celebrates the work of Christ in redeeming us by calling us, saving us, blessing us, sanctifying us (making us holy) and giving glory to our Heavenly Father. The work of the people is joined with Christ through our response of thanksgiving, praise, worship, adoration, sacrifice, intercession and giving glory to our Heavenly Father in the liturgy.

Sacrament of Baptism

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

- The Sacrament of Baptism is the gateway to all the other Sacraments. Jesus said that we need to be baptized to go to Heaven (John 3:1-21).
(CCC 1213-1215, necessity: CCC 1257-1261; 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: God cleansed the earth of people who did not love God with the floodwaters and saved Noah and his family.
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 28:19-20	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..."

2. In the Sacrament of 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 1265, 1267-1270)
3. 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, which 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).
 - d. 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)
4. 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. These supernatural gifts are given for personal growth in holiness and to sustain the moral life.
(CCC 1265-1266, 1812-1813, 1830-1831)
5. 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 are to study the Rite of Baptism.
(CCC 1234-1245 symbols)
6. 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)
7. 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 should study the lives of their patron saints and ask for the saint's intercession.
(CCC 2156)

(Note to catechist: "The 'baptismal name' can also express a Christian mystery or Christian virtue).

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Penance

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

1. The Sacrament 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.”
Matthew 16:15-19	Jesus said, “Whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven” (CCC 1444-1445).
Luke 5: 17-26	“Who but God alone can forgive sins?”
Psalm 51	“Against You, You alone, have I sinned and done what is evil.”

2. Sin is an offense against God or primarily turning away from God that damages our relationship with Him, and at the same time, damages the Church and our relationship with others. **Conversion (a radical reorientation of the whole life away from sin and evil, and toward God or a deeper conversion of a turning back to God) entails repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation with both God, family members and our neighbor. We are healed and strengthened in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** (CCC 1440, 1443-1445, 1849-1852)
3. Only God is able to forgive sins. However, Jesus entrusted His own exercise of the power of forgiving sins, in His name, 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, 1456, 1461, 1466, John 20:19-23)
4. There is mortal or deadly and venial sin. Mortal sin is saying no to our friendship (a serious disobedience to God’s laws of love) that destroys our friendship with Jesus through 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).
5. 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. Contrition involves both sorrow for sin and a firm commitment not to sin again. (CCC 1496-1497, 1451, 1456)
6. A priest can never reveal what is heard in confession. There is no exception. This is called the sacramental seal of Confession. (CCC 1467)
7. Five steps to make a good confession: (CCC 1491-94)
 - 1) Pray to the Holy Spirit to help me know my sins (examination of conscience) (CCC 1448, 1454)
 - 2) Pray to the Holy Spirit 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)
Contrition involves both sorrow for sin and a 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 1448, 1495, 1456)
 - 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. Reparation means to show sorrow to God for offenses against Him. (CCC 1459-1460)
8. 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)
9. Mother Church encourages us, especially parents taking their children, to frequent the Sacrament of Confession. This helps us to be purified, strengthened, and enlightened to live the Christian life. The longer we stay away from the Sacrament of Confession, the more we think we do not sin.
10. We are obliged to confess serious sins at least once a year. Confession of venial sins is strongly recommended by the Church.
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, 1496)

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist

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

1. At the Last Supper Jesus changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood, which we call transubstantiation; He 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."

John 6:22-71 **Jesus gives Himself to us as Living Bread to be received. He wants you to receive Him in Holy Communion. Communion means unity. When you receive Jesus, you share a special closeness with Him.**

2. At Mass, the priest prays the same words that Jesus said at the Last Supper over the bread and wine and the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus. **This is the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The sacrifice of the Mass is an offering of Jesus' life of obedience and service to the Father, which He did on the Cross.**

"Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is My Body which will be given up for you. Take this all of you, and drink from it: This is cup of My Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting Covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."
(Matthew 26: 26-29; Mark 14: 22-25; Luke 22: 14-20; CCC 1375, 1353, 1371)

3. **Jesus commanded the Twelve Apostles to celebrate this memorial until His return. Jesus told us if we eat of His Body and drink of his Blood we shall have eternal life. Communion**

with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist prepares us for perfect union with Him in Heaven (See John 6:51-58). (CCC 1402-1406)

4. Holy Communion is Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. The Holy Eucharist continues to look and taste like ordinary bread and wine after the consecration even though the substance has changed. This is called transubstantiation, which means change of substance. This is what we mean when we say Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist. (CCC 1413)
5. The priest acts in the person of Christ (*in persona Christi*) by teaching us about God's Word (Liturgy of the Word) and by giving us Jesus in Holy Communion (Liturgy of the Eucharist). (CCC 1592, 1548-1551, 1410)
6. 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)
7. There are two main parts of the Mass in which we come together to pray as one family (CCC 1348; 1408)
 - a) **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
 - b) **Liturgy of the Eucharist**
 - the presentation and preparation of the gifts in which we get ready to thank God and offer ourselves with Jesus to the Father (CCC 1350)
 - the Eucharistic Prayer which the priest prays the words of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus (CCC 1352-1354, 1408)
 - the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) is "the most perfect of prayers" of the Church given to us by the Lord Jesus (CCC 2774, 2765, 275)
 - 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)
 - the reception of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist (CCC 1331, 1355, 1388)
 - we become tabernacles of the living God (CCC 1179)
 - 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)
8. **The sacrifice of Christ on the cross is commemorated and mysteriously made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Church. The Mass is both a sacrifice and a Sacred Banquet of communion in which we are united with Christ by receiving His Body and His Blood.** (CCC 1357, 1382, 1362-1367)
9. 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)
10. 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)
11. Students are to 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 until 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)
12. The way in which we receive Our Lord shows the deep respect and depth of our belief that this is Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist. (CCC 1061-1065)
This should include:
- Being recollected and focusing on Our Lord
 - In approaching Jesus, we reverence Him with a bow of the head
 - 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”
13. 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)
14. **The fruits of receiving the Holy Eucharist:** (CCC 1391-1401, 1416, 1419)
The Eucharist more fully :
- **Joins us to Jesus and His Family, the Church**
 - **Frees us from less serious (venial) sins and preserves us from grave (mortal or deadly) sins**
 - **Sustains our strength to be faithful to Jesus in daily prayer and to live by His commandments**
 - **Makes us long for eternal life, Heaven**
 - **Through the Eucharist, Christ unites the Church as one Body**
 - **commits us to the poor and needy**
15. We want to realize that Jesus is present in the Church, even after Mass, as 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)
16. **We can offer adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside the Mass that is one of the most intimate prayers of the Church. The consecrated Host is placed in a sacred vessel that is called a monstrance for us to adore Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. “To visit the Blessed Sacrament is . . . a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord” (Pope Paul VI, MF, 66). (CCC 1378, 1418)**

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 moral life is not an arbitrary list of rules. Living life as God asks us to is living a fully human life.

In Fourth Grade, students should **review** for greater **understanding** the following Truths of Faith except where a teaching is to be **introduced**, which is **bolded**. 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 219, 220-221, 2083, 2086, 1701-1703)
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, thoughts, words and deeds. It means refusing to unveil that which should remain hidden due to the effects of original sin. (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. A person is to be loved not a thing to be used. Jesus wants us to treat others with kindness. Loving and helping others brings us joy. (CCC 225, 357, 1766, 2447, 2262)
4. **Jesus' two-fold Law of Love is a command to love God and to love others as Jesus has loved us. When we love others and ourselves we are doing what God wants us to do. God asks us to love our neighbor even as He loves us, and forgive others as Jesus forgives us.** (CCC 1823-1825, 1844, 1970, 2196, 218-219)
5. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20: -17). 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 rules or laws given to us by God to ensure our true freedom and happiness in this life and for eternity. The Holy Spirit strengthens us to be faithful to God's love by living according to the Commandments. (CCC 2056-2057, 2060-2063, 2067, 2072-2074, 1724)
6. 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.

The Ten Commandments - God's laws of love given to Moses

Exodus 20: 2-6

The First Commandment: There is only one God. You shall not have other gods besides Me.

Matthew 4:10

Jesus said "You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve."

Because God created us, keeps us in existence every second and we depend on Him for everything, we must give Him proper worship as the one true God and Creator of all things. We worship other "gods" when we treat our possessions like gods: when we want more and more, when we are stingy, or by making a god out of popularity by even doing something we know to be wrong just to be popular.

Romans 1:5

"Through Him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of His Name."

We are to believe the many things that God has told us about Himself, about ourselves and about His Church. We received the supernatural gift of faith to believe all that He has told us as recorded in Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Jeremiah 29:8 All forms of *divination* are to be rejected such as: 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).

Exodus 20:7 **The Second Commandment:** God’s name is Holy. You shall not use God’s name in vain.

Psalm 8:1 “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth.”
Matthew 5:33-34 Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, calling us to perfection: “You have heard that it was said to the men of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely...But I say to you, Do not swear at all.’”

Exodus 20:8-11 **The Third Commandment:** Remember to keep God’s day holy.
Genesis 2:3 “So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work He had done in creation.”

God did not need to rest but He knows that we need rest to rest and be strengthened by receiving Him in Holy Communion each Sunday (CCC 2185).

**Since we are followers of Jesus, Sunday is our day of prayer dedicated to God and rest from any unnecessary work. Above all, we must actively participate in the Mass on Sunday (or Saturday evening) and other Holy Days.
(See section on Sacraments, Holy Eucharist)**

Exodus 20:12 **The Fourth Commandment:** Honor your father and mother.
Colossians 2:20 “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”

We are to *love* our parents, to *respect* our parents and to *obey* our parents.

Exodus 20:13 **The Fifth Commandment:** You shall not kill.

We are to take care of our body and our soul and respect and honor the body and soul of others. We are to treat others with kindness, no matter what they look like, what they wear etc.

We can deeply hurt someone through gossip, ignoring him/her or making fun of him/her. These things strike at a person’s dignity.

Exodus 20:14 **The Sixth Commandment:** You shall not commit adultery.

The Sixth and Ninth Commandments forbid unfaithfulness in marriage.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 **“Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit” -God dwells within you.**

We are to treat each person as a beloved child of God: with complete respect for his/her dignity.

The Lord wants us to enjoy good things. We are to listen to, read and watch things that are good and pure, things that do not make us feel uncomfortable because the Ten Commandments are being violated. It is helpful to ask: Would Jesus watch this program or read this book?

Exodus 20:15 **The Seventh Commandment:** You shall not steal.

Exodus 20:16 **The Eighth Commandment:** You shall not lie.
Matthew 5:37 “Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’”

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, “You are My friends if you do what I command you.”
Luke 18:1 “We ought always to pray and not lose heart.”

“Prayer is an indispensable condition for being able to obey God’s commandments.” (CCC 2098)

7. When they sinned through disobedience, Adam and Eve lost God’s life in their soul, which we call sanctifying grace. This sin is called 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)
8. **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)
9. 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.
10. **Grace helps us to do what is good and right by being generous and looking for opportunities to help our parents, families and others. Thinking about what is right and good before acting on feelings will help us to make good decisions. This should include such actions as being fair with others and sharing what we have been given by God, most especially with the poor This is called Stewardship. (CCC 1889)**
11. **Grace makes it possible to live with God someday in Heaven. God made all of us out of love and wants us to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him; He wants us to be His children. We receive sanctifying grace in the Sacraments, which helps us to love God and our neighbor and to live a good, moral life. (CCC 1811)**
12. **Grace helps us to avoid what is wrong, for example, lying, stealing, cheating or being unkind to siblings. Grace helps us to live by the Ten Commandments. Grace will also help us to develop the virtue of modesty, which guides our choice of how to dress properly. (CCC 2082)**
13. God gave us the power to choose to love Him and other people. We can choose, no one can make our choice for us. In choosing to do something bad on purpose, we commit a sin. We do not love God when we sin. Each sin takes grace away from our soul. (CCC 1264, 1426, 1428, 2848-2849, 2340)
14. There are two kinds of sin: *venial* sin and *mortal* sin. Venial sins are less serious sins but they wound God’s love. Most sins are venial sins. Mortal sins are very big, very bad sins. We lose the life of God within our soul, which we call sanctifying grace, if we commit a mortal sin. We cannot go to Heaven if there is an unrepented mortal sin on our soul. (CCC 1855, 1857-1860)

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

Examples of less sinful actions: Less sinful actions against neighbor include being unkind to someone, not obeying parents immediately, being lazy with homework.

15. It is important to examine our conscience and pray a sincere Act of Contrition every night. In examining our conscience, we ask ourselves:
- What did I do today that pleased God?
 - Did I pray to God today?
 - Did I listen to and obey my parents and teachers?
 - Was I kind to everyone or how was I selfish?
 - Pick one thing that you will ask Jesus to help you to avoid.
16. There are good (**virtuous**) and bad (sinful) choices. Right choices are the way we love God, others and ourselves. This is how we grow in holiness. Sinful choices are acts of selfishness. Sins wound us personally as well as our relationship with God and others. (CCC 1852-1853, 1849-1850)
17. 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, also called the moral virtues or natural 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.
- Prudence:** Discovering our true good and choosing the right means of achieving it
(Simplified definition) making a right judgment
- Justice:** Giving the proper due to God and neighbor
Being fair
- Fortitude/Courage:** Firmness in the pursuit of good
The courage to do what is right
- Temperance:** 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 sharing their possessions. The virtue of temperance is exercised when children take two slices of pizza instead of five.
18. The foundation of the Christian life is the Theological Virtues of faith, hope and charity. The Theological Virtues were infused by God into the soul at Baptism. Faith is our belief in God. Hope is trusting in God's promises. Charity is loving others as God loves us. "The Theological Virtues dispose Christians to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity." (CCC 1842-1844, 1812-1829)
19. We can grow in the Theological Virtues through prayer, by deliberate acts and by perseverance. We can also lose the Gifts of Faith, Hope and Charity through voluntary doubt, despair and lukewarmness etc. (CCC 1810-1811, 2087-2094)
20. The Theological Virtues give deeper meaning and purpose to the Cardinal Virtues.

Example: We do not want to be fair only because it makes us feel good to do so. Through the virtue of charity, we want to be fair to each person because each person is created in the image and likeness of God. However, we also need to be fair to each person purely out of our love for God.

21. Each person is invited to a personal friendship with Jesus Christ. This is our primary vocation, to love God in obedience and service to others through a life of charity, also referred to as holiness of life. 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 personal vocation.
22. **God's plan for each person is called a vocation (calling). God created each person with special gifts and talents, which are to be used to serve God and others. Answering God's call to our vocation will bring us peace and joy. God might call you to be a priest or consecrated person (nun, consecrated virgin, hermit etc.), to get married, or to the single life.** (CCC 898, 873, 825, 871-945)
- **A priest is a man who gives himself totally to God to serve the people.**
 - **A man and a woman become husband and wife through the Sacrament of Matrimony. They give themselves to God and to each other and they welcome children as a gift from God.**
 - **A nun gives herself totally to God (consecrates herself to live in poverty, chastity and obedience out of love for God) and lives in community with other nuns.**
23. Our parents, who give us life, love and provide for us, are a very special gift from God. Playmates and classmates are meant to be our friends. Friends are also gifts from God. We are grateful to God for all the beautiful gifts He has given us.
(CCC 2215, on friendship and chastity 2347)
24. ***The heart of Catholic Social Teaching is ultimately to lead people to God.***
(CCC 863-864, 2105, 2420)
25. ***The Ten Commandments provide the foundation for Catholic Social Teaching.***
(CCC 1959, 2070-2071)
26. After we participate in the Sacraments, above all the Holy Eucharist, we receive the strength to go forth to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving our neighbor.
(CCC 1397, 1396, 1391-1395)
27. God desires that we share what we have been given with others:
Spiritual gifts - the gift of faith and knowledge about God
Temporal gifts - our material possessions.
28. 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)
29. 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. (CCC 2402, 2408)
30. 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 2415-1418, 2402)

31. We were created to be happy 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 **to judge the living and the dead at the end of time. Those who have followed Him in loving God and others will go to Heaven.** (CCC 681-682, 678-679)
32. 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. **We are able to pray for those who have died especially for the souls in Purgatory.** (CCC 1023-1024, 1020)

IV. Christian Prayer

Prayer is an essential way we respond to God who loved us first. Prayer is necessary if we are to know God personally and to do His will. Living the Christian life is almost impossible without prayer.

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

1. “Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.” Friendship with Jesus depends upon a daily commitment to prayer. Prayer is a gift from God. God longs for us and calls us to respond to His love in prayer everyday. He gives us the strength (grace) to respond to that call. We are called to pray every day with our families. (CCC 2559, 2659-2660, 2565-2567, 2615, 2591)
2. 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)
3. 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.
4. “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; Synod Act #12)
5. **The more we listen to Jesus, the easier it is to talk with Him. We want to grow in our devotion to the Sacred Heart. This devotion helps us to remain more faithfully in the company of our Lord Jesus who always dwells with us in the Church, above all in the Holy Eucharist. The particular object of this devotion is the immense love of the Son of God, by which He allowed Himself to be delivered up to death for us and to give Himself entirely to us in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.**
6. Prayer is the foundation of a lifelong relationship with God. We can learn about God at home and at school but we cannot know Him personally without prayer.
7. 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)
8. 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)
9. 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 be in communion with Jesus Christ. (CCC 1374, 1391, 1324-1325, 1407)
10. 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)

11. 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)
12. 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 able to know Jesus personally through the Gospel stories. (CCC 125, 129)
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) **As the habit of personal prayer develops, students will become comfortable with silence in meditation, praying with Scripture using *Lectio Divina*, and "listening" to the Holy Spirit. They will also grow in the awareness of the presence of God.**

Students should memorize the following prayers:

- 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
- **Memorare**
- **The Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary**
- **Hail Holy Queen**

14. 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.
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 show their reverence and keep their focus on the Lord. We also want to show respect for those who are praying. (CCC 1180 – 1181, 1185-1186)
17. 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.
18. 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)
19. 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. (CCC 971, 2678, 2708, 1674)

20. 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)
21. Students are to know and be able to recite 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
22. 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 Initiative, to help make prayer more personal with accompanying resources, is available here: diolc.org/prayer.

Basic Prayers for Children (Liguori.org)

The Way of the Cross for Children

New Catholic Picture Bible, Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D. (Catholic Book Publishing Co)

My Path to Heaven, Caryl Houselander (Sophia Press)

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, and the other six novels of The Chronicles of Narnia, C.S. Lewis (Haper Collins)

Catholic Tales for Boys and Girls, Caryl 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)

Catholic Prayer Book for Children, Julianne M. Will (Our Sunday Visitor)

Prayer

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother: to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

The Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

Hail Holy Queen

(Salve Regina)

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, O most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus! O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary, Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Saints

In Fourth Grade, the students should 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 offered her prayer to God in response to the words of the Angel Gabriel: “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).** (This was Mary’s 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 is the perfect “pray-er”. We can pray with her and to her.** Mary will keep us from sin and lead us to her loving Son and our Savior. (CCC 964, 967-969, 2679)
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 (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 (honor) them, and learn about them by reading their lives. (CCC 956, 957, 959)
8. God wants everyone to be a saint. Our greatest happiness is achieved in becoming a saint. (CCC 27)

Recommended Saints Books

Fifty-Seven Saints (Daughters of St. Paul)

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Jeanne Marie Grunwell (Pauline Books and Media)

The Children of Fatima, Mary Fabyan Windeatt (Tan Books)

The Miraculous Medal, Mary Fabyan Windeatt (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 in the curriculum.

New Words

Assumption of Mary	basilica	Beatitudes	catacombs
cathedral	Catholic	Christian	Communion of Saints
community	conception	consecrated life	Coronation of Mary
covet	covetousness	daily crosses	Easter Saturday
everlasting	evil	fervent	glorious
glory	Golgotha	hallowed	hermit
holy cards	Holy Law	holy oils	Holy See
images	Immaculate Conception	immodesty	imperfect
Incarnation	infinite	injustice	innocence
just	luminous	married vocation	Mercy Sunday
miraculous medal	mission	missionary	monk
novena	nun	Ordinary Time	Palm Sunday
Paschal Mystery	Passion	perpetual	praise
Precepts of the Church	priestly vocation	reason/intellect	Redeemer
redemption	redemptive suffering	relics	religious vocation
Revelation	rosary	sacramentals	Sacred Scripture
Sacred Tradition	scapular	service	single vocation
solemnity	Solemnity of Mary	statue	tithing
Transfiguration	trespasses	Triduum	Vicar of Christ
virtue	vocation	womb	worship

Previous Words

absolution	absolve	abstain	actual grace
Adam	adoration	adoration chapel	adore
Advent	Advent candles	Advent wreath	All Saints' Day
alleluia	all-knowing	all-loving	almighty
alms	almsgiving	altar	altar server
amen	angels	Annunciation	anoint
Anointing of the Sick	Apostles (Twelve Apostles)	Archangels	Ascension
Ash Wednesday	ashes	Baptism	baptismal font
bear false witness	believe	Bethlehem	Bible
bishop	Blessed Sacrament	blessing	Blood of Christ
body	Body of Christ	Bread of Life	Breaking of Bread
brother	Calvary	chalice	charity (love)
chastity	Child of God	chrism	Christ
Christmas	Church	church building	ciborium
commandment	communion fast	confession	confessional
Confirmation	conscience	consecrate	consecrated hosts
consecration	contrition	conversion	corporal
counsel	creation	Creator cross	creatures
creed	crucifix	crucifixion	crucify
deacon	decade	deliberate	demon
devil	disciples	dishonesty	disobey
Easter	Egypt	Epiphany	eternal
Eucharist	Eucharistic Prayer	evangelization	Eve
examination of conscience	Faith	faith	faith response
faithfulness	Family of God	fasting	Father
fear of the Lord	Finding of Jesus in the Temple	followers	font
forgiveness	fortitude	free will	generosity

gentleness	genuflection	God	god-parent
Good Friday	goodness	Gospels	grace
guardian angels	Heaven	heirs	hell
holiness	holy	Holy and Divine Liturgy	Holy Communion
Holy Day	Holy Mass	Holy Orders	Holy Sacrifice
Holy Spirit	Holy Thursday	holy water	Holy Week
hope	host	human	image and likeness
incense	indelible	indelible spiritual mark	infinite
intercession	Jerusalem	Jesus	Jesus' hidden life Jesus'
public life	Joseph	joy	kindness
Kingdom of God	knowledge	Lamb of God	Last Supper
Law of Love	Lent	Lenten abstinence	Lenten fast
lie	liturgical year	liturgy	Liturgy of the Eucharist
Liturgy of the Word	Lord	Lord's Supper	love
love (charity)	Magi	martyr	Mary
Mass	Matrimony	Memorial	merciful
mercy	miracles	missalette	modesty
monstrance	mortal	mortal sin	Most Blessed Sacrament
Mount Sinai	mystery	Nativity	obedient
obey	offer	offering	ordinary bread (unleaven)
ordinary grape wine	original sin	parable	paradise
pardon	parish	pastor	paten
patience	patron	saint	peace
penance	Pentecost	People of God	perfect
Peter	pew	piety	poor souls
Pope (Holy Father)	prayer	Precious Blood	Presentation of Jesus in Temple
priest	purgatory	Reconciliation	redemptive
respect	Resurrection	reverence	Rosary
sacrament	sacred chrism	Sacred Mysteries	sacrifice
saint	salvation	Salvation Story	sanctify
sanctifying grace	sanctuary	sanctuary light	satan
self-control	sin	soul	spiritual
sponsor	state of grace	Stations of the Cross	steal
stole	strength	suffering	Sunday
Sunday rest	tabernacle	talents	temple
temptation	Ten Commandments	theological virtues	transubstantiation
Trinity	understanding	venial sin	vestments
Visitation	votive candle	will of God	wisdom
witness	witnesses	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