

# *Third Grade*

## DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION **Curriculum Outcomes/Religious Education**

At this level, Catholic School and Religious Education children will be presented with the following beliefs and practices and at the conclusion of this level demonstrate a knowledge of these beliefs and an understanding of how these practices are integral to living out the Catholic faith in a manner appropriate for their age and ability.

The following curriculum outcomes are categorized within the fundamental tasks of catechesis: “helping to know, to celebrate and to contemplate the mystery of Christ.” (GDC 85-87; NDC pp. 59-63)

### *Key Concepts*

- 1 | Knowledge of the Faith
- 2 | Liturgical Education
- 3 | Moral Formation
- 4 | Teaching to Pray
- 5 | Education for Community Life
- 6 | Missionary Initiation

# *Before you begin Review*

Review Key  
Concepts from  
Previous Grade  
Level

- God is the Creator of all things and created us in his image and likeness
- in the Blessed Trinity there are three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the one God
- the Bible, Old Testament and New Testament, is the Word of God
- in the Gospels of the New Testament we find the life of Jesus, the Son of God
- know the life of Jesus: annunciation, birth, early life, his public life, death, resurrection and Ascension (cf. First Grade Curriculum Outcomes for outline of life of Jesus)
- Catholics are obliged to attend and to participate at Mass each Sunday
- sin is an offense against God and a failure in love for God and others
- in the sacrament of Penance we express sorrow for our sins and we are forgiven
- the liturgical year guides our worship throughout the year
- God gives us the gift of grace which is a participation in the life of God
- the Ten Commandments given to us by God, guide our life
- two great commandments, love God and love neighbor, were given to us by Jesus
- the seven sacraments instituted by Christ enable us to participate in God's life and receive grace
- the Celebration of the Eucharist is the central prayer of the Church
- the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ who is really and mysteriously made present
- Mary is the mother of Jesus, our Mother and a model of faith
- Joseph is the foster father of Jesus

# Key Concepts

## 1 Knowledge of the Faith

■ Catechesis gives believers a knowledge of the content of God's self-revelation which is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition and helps them know and understand the mysteries of the faith we proclaim in the Creed. (cf. NDC p.60)

Children being catechized in Third Grade will:

- a. know that God created angels to be his messengers and to praise Him (CCC 328-333)
- b. realize that there are three Persons in the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Blessed Trinity; we acknowledge this truth when we make the sign of the cross (CCC 232-234, 2157)
- c. know that Jesus is the Son of God, the second person of the Blessed Trinity, who became man (CCC 422-423, 461, 463, 470)
- d. understand that in the Old Testament, God revealed himself to Abraham and Moses; and gave them laws and teachings instructing them how to live in a way pleasing to him; in the New Testament, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, by his life shows us how God would have us live as his faithful people (CCC 54-58)
- e. realize that Jesus tells us about God's kingdom through his words, actions, parables and miracles (CCC 547-550)
- f. understand that Jesus invited his followers to become part of the kingdom of God (CCC 551)
- g. identify the twelve Apostles Jesus called to follow him, spread the gospel and serve others (CCC 859, 876, 1506)
- h. identify that Jesus chose Peter as the leader of his Apostles to lead, teach, guide and spread the Gospel (CCC 552-553)
- i. understand that after Jesus ascended into heaven, Matthew 28:20, he sent his Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost, who strengthened them to go out and teach about Jesus and form the Christian community, Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4 (CCC 726)
- j. know that the Church is the Body of Christ, who is its head, and the Holy Spirit is the source of its life, of its unity and of the riches of its gifts and charisms (CCC 805, 807, 809)
- k. define that the Church is a family and members, by their faith and baptism, are called the people of God (CCC 804)
- l. know that Jesus is present in his Church, the Scriptures and the Eucharist (CCC 737)
- m. identify that Bishops are successors of the apostles and are leaders in the Church today (CCC 857, 861-862)
- n. identify the Pope, the successor of St. Peter, and realize that he is the visible head of the whole Church (CCC 880-882)

Children being  
catechized in  
Third Grade will:

- o. understand that the Pope and bishops guard and pass on the teachings of Christ and help us understand what we are to believe (CCC 862, 888-892)
- p. know that the Church is One; her members are united in sharing the Eucharist, beliefs, and the love of Christ (CCC 787-790, 866)
- q. know that the Church is Holy; her members try to live as Jesus did, loving and obeying God and caring for others (CCC 825-826)
- r. know that the Church is Catholic; she welcomes all people in the whole world and knows that Jesus came to save all people (CCC 831, 835, 868)
- s. know that the Church is Apostolic; her members love and obey the teachings of the apostles and try to live these teachings (CCC 857, 869)
- t. understand that the Apostles' Creed is a summary of the Church's beliefs and that a careful study of the Apostles' Creed will give us knowledge of our faith (CCC 167, 187, 194, pp. 49-50 in the CCC align the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds)
- u. understand that with the help of God, husbands and wives in the sacrament of marriage are faithful to one another (CCC 1601)
- v. realize that mothers and fathers cooperate with God in creating new life (CCC 1604)
- w. realize that boys and girls – and all people – are made in God's image and are partners in God's plan for creation, Genesis 1:27 (CCC 355)

## 2 Liturgical Education

■ Christ is present in the sacraments. The believer comes to know Christ intimately in the liturgical celebrations of the Church. Christ's saving action in the Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the sacraments. This is especially true in regard to the Eucharist. Catholics experience the closest communion with Jesus on earth that is possible when they receive his living Body and his Precious Blood in Holy Communion. Catechesis should promote an active, conscious and genuine participation in the liturgy of the Church and an understanding of the doctrinal truths of the Creed which are its foundation. (cf. NDC p.60)

Children being  
catechized in  
Third Grade will:

- a. explain, in an age appropriate manner, the liturgical year (CCC 1163-1171)
- b. describe the meaning of the season of Advent and the season of Christmas (CCC 524-526, 1171)
- c. describe the meaning of the season of Lent, the Easter Triduum and the Easter season (CCC 540, 571, 1168-1169, 1329-1330, 1412,)

Children being  
catechized in  
Third Grade will:

- d. identify and celebrate some feasts of Mary, the Mother of God, as they occur in the liturgical year e.g.,
  - Nativity of Mary, September 8
  - Immaculate Conception, December 8
  - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, December 12
  - Mary Mother of God, January 1
  - Annunciation of the Lord, March 25
  - Assumption, August 15 (CCC 490-493, 964-966)
- e. identify and celebrate the lives of some saints especially young persons who are saints, e.g.,
  - St. Therese of the Child Jesus, October 1
  - Guardian Angels, October 2
  - St. Francis of Assisi, October 4
  - All Saints, November 1
  - St. Martin de Porres, November 3
  - St. Andrew, Apostle, November 30
  - St. Nicholas, December 6
  - St. Stephen, Martyr, December 26
  - St. Francis De Sales, Patron/Diocese of Wilmington, January 24
  - St. Patrick, March 17
  - St. Joseph, March 19
  - St. Dominic Savio, May 6
  - Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, June 29
  - St. Maria Goretti, July 6
  - Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, July 14; (CCC 437,1195)
- f. reflect throughout this year on the Sunday Gospels and the Eucharistic prayer, also, take tours of the church to gain an understanding of altar, tabernacle, vestments (liturgical colors), sacred vessels, Book of the Gospels, sacramentary, etc. (CCC 1346-1347)
- g. participate at Mass by e.g., attention to singing, responses, readings, signing at the gospel, listening prayerfully to the Eucharistic prayer, saying the Our Father, joining in the sign of peace (CCC 1438-1455)
- h. know that the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ is called the Eucharist (CCC 1328)
- i. understand that at the Last Supper Jesus gave us himself in the Eucharist (CCC 1339)
- j. know that at the consecration during the Eucharistic Prayer, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus (CCC 1352-1353)
- k. realize that the Mass is a gathering of Catholics to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1346, 1348-1355)
- l. demonstrate the ability to receive Holy Communion reverently during Mass (CCC 1355)

Children being  
catechized in  
Third Grade will:

- m. recognize that the Lord commands us to keep holy the Lord's Day and the Church, to fulfill this obligation, requires us to attend the celebration of the Eucharist (Mass) each Sunday and Holy Day of obligation (CCC 1324, 1389)
- n. understand that at the celebration of the Eucharist, (Mass) we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus, give thanks, and receive Jesus in communion; at the celebration of the Eucharist, the church commemorates Christ's Passover, and it is made present: the sacrifice Christ offered once for all on the cross remains ever present (CCC 1355, 1358-1360, 1364)
- o. realize that our Church teaches that the bread and wine, by the power of the Holy Spirit and by the words of the priest become the Body and Blood of Christ who is really and mysteriously made present (CCC 1357-1358)
- p. know that the whole Christ is truly, really, present in the fullest sense in the Eucharist (CCC 1374)
- q. demonstrate the ability to approach the sacrament of Penance and seek forgiveness (CCC 1484)

## 3 Moral Formation

■ Catechesis must transmit the content of Christ's moral teachings and conform the believer to Christ through personal transformation and conversion. It should encourage the faithful to give witness to Christ and His Church's teaching in everyday life. As Catholics, we are called to carry the values of the Gospel and the luminous teaching of our Church into the public square. (cf. NDC p. 61)

Children being  
catechized in  
Third Grade will:

- a. understand that our life is a gift from God and that we must care for our life and the lives of others (CCC 1996, 2258)
- b. name the Ten Commandments, given to us by God, that guide our life (CCC 2056-2057, use traditional catechetical formula on pp. 496-497 in CCC)
- c. name the two great Commandments given to us by Jesus, Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 10:25-28 (CCC 2196)
- d. understand that Jesus, while he was on earth, taught us how to live, and asks us to follow him and become his disciples-"Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect," Matthew 5:48 (CCC 1693)
- e. understand that we grow in mind, body and spirit in Christ (CCC 1771)
- f. realize that modesty shows respect for our own bodies and the bodies of others (CCC 2524)
- g. describe the love, respect and obedience children should show in the family and recognize the family as a place to learn forgiveness (CCC 1657, 2214-2220, 2227)

Children being  
catechized in  
Third Grade will:

- h. know that conscience is a voice within our hearts where God has inscribed his law calling us to love and to choose to do what is good and avoid evil (CCC 1776)
- i. identify that through mortal sin: charity is destroyed by a grave violation of God's law; we lose sanctifying grace; and we are no longer in full union with the Church but remain children of God and members of the Church; the Sacrament of Penance is for all sinful members of the Church especially those who have fallen into grave sin (CCC 1855-1859, 1861, 1446)
- j. identify that venial sin is a less serious offense but one that weakens our relationship with God and others (CCC 1855, 1862-1863)
- k. understand that grace is the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons and daughters, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life; grace is participation in the life of God and introduces us into the intimacy with the Trinity (CCC 1996-2005)

## 4 Teaching to Pray

■ Conversion to Christ and communion with him lead the faithful to his disposition of prayer and reflection. Jesus' entire life, death and Resurrection were an offering to the Father. The Our Father is the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray and the model of all Christian prayer. The handing on of the Our Father is a summary of the whole Gospel and a true act of catechesis. The most effective catechesis is permeated by a climate of prayer. (cf. NDC p. 61)

Children being  
catechized in  
Third Grade will:

- a. understand that prayer is a gift from God, a talking to and with God and that the life of prayer is the habit of being in God's presence and in communion with him (CCC 2559, 2564-2565)
- b. realize that daily prayer is a way of life for Christians (CCC 2659-2660)
- c. understand that prayer may be said at anytime or place but special places are: home; church; classes where we learn about God the Father, his Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit (CCC 2743, 2659-2660; NDC p. 203)
- d. know that when we pray we may use the prayers of the Church, prayers from the Bible, prayers that the saints wrote or we may pray in our own words using the words that are in our heart, Galatians 4:6 (CCC 2656-2658; NDC pp.111-113)
- e. understand, in an age appropriate manner, that there are different forms of prayer:
  - adoration (blessing) (CCC 2628)
  - supplication (petition, intercession, contrition) (CCC 2629, 2631, 2634)
  - thanksgiving (gratitude) (CCC 2637)
  - praise (CCC 2639)

Children being catechized in Third Grade will:

- f. identify that the Our Father, given by Jesus to his Apostles, has a special place in the prayers of the Church, especially the Eucharistic liturgy, and be able to locate this prayer in the New Testament, Luke 11:2-4; Matthew 6:9-13 (CCC 2773-2776)
- g. learn/review the following prayers, The Church teaches: “The memorization of basic prayers offers an essential support to the life of prayer, but it is important to help learners savor their meaning.” (CCC 2688)
  - Sign of the Cross
  - Our Father
  - Hail Mary
  - Glory Be
  - Act of Contrition
  - Apostles’ Creed
  - Prayers before and after meals
  - Rosary (have an understanding of this prayer, it is a lengthy prayer for this age group)
  - Stations of the Cross
  - Morning Prayer/Prayer at bedtime

---

Note: See Appendices of this Curriculum and of *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* for listing of these prayers.

## 5 Education for Community Life

■ Jesus said to his disciples: “Love one another as I have loved you.” (John 13:34) This command guides the disciple’s life in the Catholic Church and global community. Catechesis should encourage: a) an apprenticeship in Catholic living b) a spirit of simplicity and humility c) special concern for the poor d) care for the alienated and the immigrant stranger e) fraternal correction and love f) common prayer and g) mutual forgiveness. Members of the Body of Christ receive special graces and gifts to help build up the Church. Ecumenical charity and sensitivity as well as a zeal for unity among Christians are emphasized. (cf. pp. 61-62)

Children being catechized in Third Grade will:

- a. understand that Jesus commands us to love God and love our neighbor, John 13:34-35
- b. realize that common prayer, Matthew 18:19, inclusive of family prayer, prayer with friends, prayer at church with the congregation, is a way of life for Christians (CCC 2685, 2694, 2696)
- c. recognize that daily prayer, e.g., before and after meals, before bedtime, before an automobile trip, etc. should be part of our life as Catholics (CCC 2659-2660)
- d. know that when other children are doing something wrong or harmful to themselves or others we should tell them to stop and tell parents/teachers (CCC 1829)



Children being  
catechized in  
Third Grade will:

- e. know that we must forgive others (family members, schoolmates, friends, neighbors) when they express sorrow for having hurt us and we must say we are sorry and ask forgiveness when we have hurt another person, Matthew 18:22 (CCC 1657, 2227, 2840, 2845)
- f. understand that with others in our family, parish, school, neighborhood we practice the charity of the Lord in good works and love for all (CCC 2179)
- g. understand that Jesus founded the Catholic Church that we might all be one however, we realize that not everyone is a Catholic and some of our relatives, playmates and neighbors may worship in other Christian religions (denominations) that believe in Jesus Christ (CCC 816, 818)
- h. know that God has entrusted to human beings responsibility for the world and all its creatures (CCC 373)

## 6 Missionary Initiation

■ Catechesis seeks to form disciples of Christ who bear witness to their Catholic faith in society. A missionary spirit of evangelization is cultivated and nourished by the teaching and attitudes of Jesus Christ. Every means should be used to encourage vocations to the Priesthood and religious life and to awaken special missionary vocations. Catechesis recognizes that other religious traditions reflect the “seeds of the Word” that can allow for both “inter-religious dialogue” and “evangelization.” (cf. GDC 86)

Children being  
catechized in  
Third Grade will:

- a. that our love for the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ strengthens us to share our Catholic faith with others
- b. realize that our love for the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ strengthens us to share our Catholic faith with others; powerful examples are great Catholic missionary saints e.g., St. Patrick, St. Francis Xavier (CCC 849, 851)
- c. know something of the missionary work and zeal of St. Peter and St. Paul (cf. Acts of the Apostles Peter: Acts 3:11-36 and 10:34-49; Acts of the Apostles Paul: Conversion 9:1-30 and selected excerpts from Chapters 16,17,18; NB: cite the many letters Paul wrote to the various towns and cities attesting to his missionary work; also note some examples of missionary saints in the Americas e.g., St. John Neumann, St. Katharine Drexel
- d. realize that every Catholic is called to have a missionary spirit that radiates the power of Christ within us; our own Catholic faith is strengthened when it is given to others (*Redemptoris Missio* 2, John Paul II, 1990 )
- e. know that the Church is in need of vocations to the priesthood, and to the different forms of consecration to God in religious and apostolic life and that we pray for vocations (CCC 1583, 1974)

Children being catechized in Third Grade will:

- f. recognize that many people in the parish assist the priest at the celebration of the eucharist as altar servers, lectors, cantors, extraordinary ministers of the communion, ushers, and that someday they too may assist at the Eucharist (CCC 897, 903)
- g. that many priests heard the call of God to Priesthood as young boys and that if that call is heard, they should pray about it and talk to their parents and a priest about the Priesthood, religious life (brothers and sisters) and being a Deacon (CCC 1589, 2253)
- h. know that wherever they are: school, home, church, playground, stores, houses of friends/relatives/neighbors, they are followers of Jesus and their behavior should show that they are Christians (CCC 2013)
- i. understand that we call Jesus, Prince of Peace and Jesus' words "Blessed are the Peacemakers", Matthew 5:9, call us to foster peace and pray for peace in the world and in the various situations of our lives (CCC 2305)

Scripture References for Catechists/ Parents and for Stories the Children Can Tell

Luke 7:18-23	...Jesus words and actions
John 5:36,10:25, 38	proclaim his Kingdom
Mark 3:13-19	...Jesus chooses his Apostles and
Luke 22:29-30	...invites them to become part of his Kingdom
Matthew 16:16-19	...Jesus chooses Peter to be first among the Twelve
Acts 2:1-4, 32, 36, 38, 41	...Pentecost
Mark 12:29-31; Matthew 22:34-40	...Great Commandments
Luke 10:25-28	
Luke 11:2-4; Matthew 6:9-13	...Our Father
Matthew 18:19-20	...Jesus' words on praying in common
Genesis 1:28; Wisdom 11:24	...responsibility for the world that God has entrusted to men and women as his stewards
Matthew 5:48	...Be perfect as your heavenly Father
Matthew 5:9	...Blessed are the peacemakers