

## What Should My Child Know? Faith Formation Goals

The Archdiocesan Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis has set standards for educating our parish children about the Catholic faith and its traditions. Since the PIF staff and leaders are partners with parents in this mission, we are providing some of the standards here.

At a minimum, catechesis---or the instruction of a religion's beliefs---is accomplished with attendance at weekly mass and at monthly PIF sessions. You can see how important the role of an adult family member is in teaching prayers, sharing the faith and participating in the richness of our traditions during the "in-between" times.

Prayers, traditions and the Catechism of the Catholic Church can be found at the United States' Conference of Catholic Bishops website, <http://www.usccb.org>.

A child in FIRST GRADE should be able to:

- Describe why a church is a special and sacred place
- Know that God is a loving Father and Creator
- Know that Jesus is the Son of God
- Recognize that the Holy Spirit can help us make good choices
- Recognize that Mary is the Mother of Jesus and our Mother
- Understand that there are special seasons in the Church year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter
- Understand that the Bible contains God's words for his people
- Know that we should show concern for those in need
- Make the Sign of the Cross and begin learning the Lord's Prayer and Hail Mary

A child in SECOND GRADE should be able to do the above and the following:

- Recognize that the parish is a family and that he/she belongs
- Recognize and begin to learn the prayers and responses during the Mass
- Identify the Holy Trinity

- Explain that God loves us even when we hurt others
- Recognize the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Know that we should treat others the way Jesus did
- Understand that we are to share what we have with others
- Know the Sign of the Cross, Lord's Prayer and Hail Mary by memory

A child in THIRD GRADE should be able to do the above and the following:

- Know that 12 disciples helped Jesus begin his Church on earth
- Understand that Advent comes before Christmas and Lent before Easter
- Identify God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Understand that Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation are Sacraments of Initiation
- Know that Jesus was a historical figure and is alive in our church and families
- Understand how the Sacrament of Reconciliation reconciles us to God
- Reverently receive Jesus in the Eucharist
- Know that all life is a gift from god
- Learn the Act of Contrition by memory
- Begin serving others in our community and parish
- Continue to learn the parts of the Mass and appropriate responses

A child in FOURTH GRADE should be able to do the above and the following:

- Understand that our Church welcomes members through Baptism
- Recall that the Holy Spirit guides us to choose good over evil
- Explain that we live our faith by celebrating the Eucharist, living in love and sharing the Good News of Jesus' teachings
- Participate regularly in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Begin to learn how to find passages in the Bible
- Recognize the 10 Commandments
- Know that God wants us to work for justice in our homes, communities and world
- Know that the Rosary is form a prayer

A child in FIFTH GRADE should be able to do the above and the following:

- Participate fully in Mass
- Explain how Mary is Mother of the Church
- Know that the Nicene and Apostle Creeds are declarations of our faith
- Know that we receive grace through the reception of the Sacraments
- Name the four Gospel writers
- Comprehend that the 10 Commandments are the laws by which we form a right conscious
- Explain that the church teaches us to reach out to others
- Practice daily prayer
- Review all previously learned prayers and the 10 Commandments

A child in SIXTH GRADE should be able to do the above and the following:

- Know the Pope's name and identify our local church leaders as bishops, priests, etc.
- Know that Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit
- Understand the role of free will
- Find passages in the Bible
- Know that we are called to be disciples of Jesus
- Review all previously learned prayers and the 10 Commandments

A student in SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES should be able to do the above and the following:

- Recognize the Resurrection of Christ as the central event of the Church
- Know that the Feast of Pentecost is the birth of the Church
- Know their place in the life, mission and work of the parish community
- Know the Nicene Creed
- Explain the Holy Trinity as one God in three persons
- Identify ways in which Jesus is both God and human
- Identify the major parts of the Mass

- Compare and contrast the Eucharistic celebration to the Last Supper
- Understand that the Bible is the inspired Word of God which reveals God, gives knowledge of our faith and contains a personal message for each person
- Identify moral values in the teachings of Christ
- Comprehend the dignity of the human person
- Realize their call to contribute to the growth of the faith
- Understand the importance of prayer
- Experience full participation in the Eucharist

A student in HIGH SCHOOL should be able to do the above and the following:

- Identify different books of the Bible and their role in our faith history
- Understand that the Holy Spirit inspires the Apostle's mission, called the Great Commission
- Identify the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching
- Recognize their personal call to holiness
- Understand the seven Sacraments and how they are celebrated