

Grade 3



PARENT PAGE

Parents have the unique responsibility for the education of their children; they are the first educators or catechists. They teach by their witness of the faith, through their values and attitudes, by their Christian example of love for Christ and his church. When children are baptized, parents accept the responsibility to raise their children in the practice of the faith...(National Directory for Catechesis 234-235)

Dear Parents,

In a special document entitled *Letter to Families*, Pope John Paul II wrote: “Parents are the first and most important educators of their own children, and they also possess a fundamental competence in this area; they are educators because they are parents”(16). You are the first and best role model for your child in these growing years. Your role as parent to love, teach, and lead your child to Jesus is a remarkable and noble vocation.

Third graders have a great fascination with heroes. They admire their parents and teachers and they begin to form attitudes based largely on the attitudes they perceive in them. Your witness of the faith and example of good Catholic practice is vital at this stage, because you are your child’s hero and he/she wants to follow your lead. Remember, there is no greater influence on your child’s faith development than you.

Your Child’s Faith Development

Like other stages of development, your third-grader’s faith development is important. Although children at every developmental level have many characteristics in common, each child is unique and will not fit entirely into any model developed. Keep in mind that your child will come to know and understand the faith at his or her own rate of development. Here are some general points to remember.

Children at this age:

- ✠ Grow in their relationship with God particularly through prayer based on life experience
- ✠ Vest great authority in parents and other trusted adults
- ✠ Desire to join in the ritual of the parish community as seen in the desire to participate in penance and Eucharist
- ✠ Need help in formation of conscience; view rules as inflexible
- ✠ Begin to sort out reality from imagination based on practical experience
- ✠ Need concrete experiences to understand concepts and religious truths
- ✠ Can begin to project themselves imaginatively into the position/situation of others
- ✠ Identify with heroes and heroines of the Bible and with the stories of the Church (i.e. lives of the saints)
- ✠ Desire to learn about people and their differences; accept attitudes of parents, teachers, the Church, and other social institutions toward differences in people

How You Can Help Your Child Grow In Faith

This year your child will continue to learn more about the Church and the importance of belonging, participating, and sharing in the faith community—the life of the Church. He/she will learn about the apostles and their successors—the Church’s hierarchy—the pope, bishops, priests. Your child will learn that the Church continues the work of Jesus today by sharing the Good News, celebrating the sacraments and serving all God’s people.

Here are several points that will assist you over the course of this year, to help your child grow in his/her faith.

- Attend and participate in Sunday Mass as a family. Afterward, talk about some of the things that took place during Mass—the sounds, sights, smells, their experience of church—belonging, community, participation.**
- Relate belonging to the family of God (church community) to their experiences of belonging to your family—discuss celebrations, rituals, symbols, prayer; family mealtime; sharing stories, songs, activities; forgiveness, giving thanks; helping family members and neighbors.**
- Help your child identify ways to participate in your parish. Stress the importance of service to others by volunteering our time and talents.**
- Discuss ways in which your child can spread the good news about Jesus (i.e. example to others, helping in the community/neighborhood, acts of kindness). Explain that Jesus works through us to reach all people.**
- Help your child become familiar with a Church agency that serves the needs of the community (i.e. food bank, Meals on Wheels).**
- Pray the Apostles’ Creed together. Reflect on the last part of the prayer with your child and discuss the meaning of *one, holy, Catholic* and *apostolic*.**
- Identify the name of the pastor and other priests of your local parish. Visit the diocesan website at www.dioceseduluth.org to identify the bishop and other church leaders and their ministries.**
- Identify the Pope as the successor to St. Peter, the first pope. Using the internet with your child, research and compare the life of St. Peter to that of the current Pope.**
- Surf the internet for information on the lives of Catholic saints. Research with you child his patron saint and those of other family members. Hold a special celebration in honor of your families’ patron saints.**
- Identify Mary as the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. Explain how Mary is a model of faith and holiness for us. Teach your child how to pray the rosary.**
- Help your child become familiar with stories from the Catholic bible. Identify the four Gospels as Jesus’ story.**
- Pray the following prayers with your child: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Angel of God, Act of Contrition, Apostles Creed, Grace before and after meals, prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. (If necessary, get the prayers from your child’s parish catechist).**

In order to understand the Catholic faith more fully every family should have a copy of the Bible, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, and the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Grade 3

BACKGROUND FOR CATECHISTS

Know Your Audience

Just like Jesus, every good catechist knows their audience.

“The catechist – must take into consideration all the human factors of a particular age level in order to present the Gospel message in a vital and compelling way.” (NDC #48)

Who Are Your Third Graders?

Faith Development

Children at this age:

1. Grow in their relationship with God particularly through prayer based on life experience.
2. Vest great authority in parents and other trusted adults.
3. Desire to join in the ritual of the parish community as seen in the desire to participate in penance and Eucharist.
4. Need help in formation of conscience.
5. Begin to sort out reality from imagination based on practical experience.
6. Need concrete experiences to understand concepts and religious truths.
7. Use classes and categories to order actions around them.
8. Can begin to project themselves imaginatively into the position/situation of others.
9. Begin to order the religious world.
10. View rules as inflexible.
11. Understand reality best in story form.
12. Identify with heroes and heroines of the Bible.
13. Identify with the stories of the Church (lives of saints for example).
14. Desire to learn about people and their differences.
15. Accept attitudes of parents, teachers, the Church, and other social institutions toward

differences in people.

GRADE 3 CATECHISTS

Guiding Principles

Catechists can:

1. Emphasize uniqueness and the people God has given to us who love and care for us. Praise, reward, and appreciate the children. Enhance their self-image by your attitude toward each child. Be an example for the children. Teach them that God loves them--showing them by attitude and action, that they are loved.
2. Model Christian behavior for children to emulate because third-graders are in the "hero-worshipping" stage. Utilize stories from scripture and from the lives of the saints which include both heroes and heroines. Concretize experiences by the use of music, spontaneous prayers, and the use of imagination in class reflections.
3. Help children develop socially and become more aware of the effect they have on a group. Help the children to choose the good that God wills, reject the wrong, and begin to accept greater responsibility for their actions.
4. Stimulate thought by including a variety of methods and activities. Distribute responsibility throughout the group which will enable the children to develop self control.
5. Help children to become aware of social ills and human needs resulting from injustice, greed, lack of mercy, violence, and war. Teach them as Christians to use their God-given gifts to respond to the needs of others.
6. Assume responsibility for involving the children in prayer and in Christian service.
7. Provide example as well as instruction that will encourage the children in a life of prayer and service.

Physical Development

Children at this age:

1. Have greater control of large motor activities and increased mastery of fine motor skills.
2. Enjoy group activities because of improved body coordination.

Social and Emotional Development

Children at this age:

1. Are in an age of “I” and “you.”
2. Have increased awareness of social sense; may begin to feel pre-adolescent pressure to wear the right clothes, etc.
3. Are more ready to share than at an earlier age, sometimes even caring for younger children.
4. Begin to place great emphasis on friendships (best friends begin to develop); best friends may be good dialogue partners in group discussions.
5. Can cooperate in group experiences (with about 4 or 5 others); boys and girls may work best in separate groups; do not want to be criticized or embarrassed in front of the group.
6. Grow into making observations about the world around them, and exercise curiosity for life.
7. Can begin to take responsibility for planning (i.e. prayer service).

Cognitive Development

Children at this age:

1. Can do more logical thinking with concrete objects and events in the present.
2. Begin to be able to see things from another's point of view, though not consistently.
3. Are rapidly developing communication skills.
4. Have speaking vocabularies which exceed reading vocabularies.
5. Have an increasing ability to talk with others and not simply to them.
6. Are enthusiastic. Are at peak creativity.
7. Are developing the self-confidence needed to work on projects.
8. Are interested in learning games.

9. Begin to be "data" collectors.
10. Display curiosity about life, nature, and people, but are able to learn more readily from their observations.
11. Are mastering the ability to read and enjoy using this skill.

NOTES

1. Pope John Paul II in **On Catechesis in Our Time** encourages the use of advances in pedagogy; biology, sociology as they help us to model God's Divine Pedagogy (teaching us gradually in stages according to our level of development). The above noted information is consistent with such documents as the *General Directory for Catechesis*, the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and other Catechetical Documents of the Church.
2. The above sciences have limitations. While this information does provide references to typical age ranges, children continue to be viewed as individuals and individual differences need to be taken into account.

THIRD GRADE

CURRICULUM STANDARDS

Theme: Our Church continues Christ's work in the world today.

The Catechist should:

- **Make copies of the Parent Page (front and back) for students to take home.**
- **Read the Background for Catechists Information.**
- **Become familiar with the *National Directory for Catechesis* & the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*.**
- **Review Previous Understandings with students:**
 - Recall that we become members of God's family through baptism.
 - Recall that sin breaks our relationship with God and that we can be forgiven by God's grace in the sacrament of penance.
 - Recall the four forms of prayer: praise, thanksgiving, sorrow, and petition.
 - Recall the following prayers:
 - Sign of the Cross
 - Our Father
 - Hail Mary
 - Glory Be
 - Angel of God
 - Grace before and after meals (optional)
 - Act of Contrition
 - Prayers and responses at Mass
 - Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
 - Review the sacraments of Eucharist and penance.

AT THE END OF THIS GRADE LEVEL STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS AND APPRECIATION OF THE EXPERIENCES INDICATED.

[Note about symbols: Of the six tasks of catechesis (knowledge of the faith; liturgy & sacraments; moral formation; prayer; community; missionary spirit) five have a symbol assigned to them. Knowledge of the Faith is the organizing task]

Symbol Key:

 = Liturgy & Sacraments  = Moral Formation  = Prayer  = Community  = Missionary Spirit

Reference Code: CCC = *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
Compendium = *Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*
USCCA = *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*

KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

1. Jesus tells us about God's kingdom through his words and actions.

CCC #547-550; Compendium #106-108; USCCA pp. 88-100



- Students will understand the role of the Church in helping us to live as Jesus asks us to live.

Mark 7:31-37...Cure of a Deaf Man

Vocabulary: Kingdom of God

2. Jesus invited His followers to become part of the kingdom of God.

CCC #551; Compendium #107; USCCA pp. 79, 80



- Students will participate in formal, reflective, and spontaneous prayer.

Matthew 13: 1-53...Parables of the Kingdom

Vocabulary: People of God, Son of God

3. Jesus called the apostles to be servants among his people.

CCC #859, 876, 1506; Compendium #175; USCCA pp. 23-31



- Students will participate in acts of service for neighbors, friends, family.


Vocabulary: apostles, minister

“Name the 12 Apostles.”

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

4. Jesus chose Peter as the leader of the apostles.

CCC #552-553; Compendium #109; USCCA pp. 112,114, 132-133


 - Students will accept that we are responsible for the choices we make.

John 21:15-17...Peter the Shepherd

Vocabulary: Peter, pope (Holy Father)

5. The Holy Spirit gathered the apostles at Pentecost.


CCC #726; Compendium #265; USCCA pp. 103, 203

 - Students will appreciate the various kinds of prayer, for example, praise, thanks, sorrow, and petition.

Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-41...Descent of the Holy Spirit Vocabulary: church, Pentecost

6. The Holy Spirit draws Jesus' followers together as one Christian community.

CCC #813; Compendium #144-145; USCCA pp. 114

 - Students will experience celebrations appropriate to the liturgical seasons.

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47...Descent of the Holy Spirit

Vocabulary: church, Pentecost, Advent, Lent

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

7. The Church is the family of God.

CCC #804, 859, 959, 2233; Compendium #153 – 154; USCCA pp.113

✠ - Students will participate in celebrations that honor the religious and cultural heritage of the parish such as the feast of the patron saint of the parish, special devotions.

Vocabulary: initiation, trinity

8. Jesus is still present in the Church especially through the Eucharist and other sacraments.


CCC #737, 739, 1076, 1373; Compendium #274, 282, 285; USCCA pp. 219-220, 223-224, 227-229, 525

✠ - Students will experience opportunities to participate in celebrations of the sacraments of Eucharist and penance.

Luke 24: 13-35 ...Emmaus Story Vocabulary: adoration, tabernacle

9. Bishops, as successors to the apostles, are the leaders of Jesus' people from the beginning of the Church, through today and until Christ returns.

CCC #857, 861-862, 877, 880, 886, 888, 893-894; Compendium # 12, 16, 176, 187, 307, 326, 332; USCCA pp. 25, 29-30, 113, 133, 138, 265-266, 337, 505

 - Students will value that as we grow, we learn to be more responsible both for our own good and the good of others.

Vocabulary: bishop, Diocese of Duluth, cathedral

Consider a visit to Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral.

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

10. The Pope as successor of St. Peter, the first apostle, is the head of the whole Church.

CCC #862, 881, 882; Compendium # 180, 182-185, 326; USCCA pp. 138, 221, 266, 523



- Students will value the adults in our lives who model a life of faith (e.g. parents, teachers, priests).

Vocabulary: parish, pastor

11. The Pope and bishops guard the teaching of Christ and help us to understand what we are to believe.

CCC #862, 888-892; Compendium # 16, 19; USCCA pp. 25, 32, 133, 330, 519



- Students will become familiar with the names and roles of some church leaders on the universal, diocesan, and parish levels.

Vocabulary: chalice, Easter

12. We are called to believe what the Church teaches.

CCC #1785; Compendium # 30, 32, 184-185; USCCA pp. 35-45



- Students will accept responsibility for telling others about Jesus, and building up the family of God through works of love, justice, and peace.

Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40...Philip and the Ethiopian

Vocabulary: liturgy of the Word, sin

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

13. We are united in sharing the Eucharist, our beliefs, praying together, and sharing with others (the Church is One).

CCC #787, 788, 789, 790, 866; Compendium # 161, 162; USCCA pp. 127-129

✠ - Students will participate with the Church community of God as we gather each Sunday to celebrate the Good News that Jesus has died, is risen, and will return again.

Vocabulary: Eucharist, liturgy of the Eucharist

14. We listen to God and do what God wants by living in the way Jesus died, loving God, and caring about others (the Church is Holy).

CCC #825, 826; Compendium # 165; USCCA pp. 129



- Students will deepen their awareness of the four Gospels as Jesus' story.

Vocabulary: holy, Scripture

15. God came to save all people in the world (The Church is Catholic)

CCC #831, 835, 868; Compendium #166, 168


16. We obey and love the teachings of the apostles and try to live these teachings today (The Church is Apostolic)

CCC #857, 869; Compendium #174-176

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

17. The Ten Commandments and the two great commandments show us how to love God and others.

CCC #2052, 2054, 2055, 2062, 2067; Compendium # 419, 420, 442-533; USCCA pp. 339-456, 87, 309

 - Students will grow in the awareness of the needs of others.

Vocabulary: commandment, Ten Commandments

18. The Apostles Creed summarizes our basic beliefs as followers of Jesus.


CCC #167, p. 49 & 50, #187, 194, Part One, Section Two, Ch. 1-3; USCCA pp. 45-46, 504

 - Students will grow in understanding of the Apostles Creed.

Vocabulary: Apostles Creed, worship

19. We belong to the Catholic Church, the living body of Jesus Christ today.

CCC #830, 833, 834; Compendium # 156, 157, 161; USCCA pp. 115, 119, 122, 505

 - Students will appreciate that belonging to the Church involves participating in the faith community and contributing to it by our gifts.


Vocabulary: sacrifice, Word of God

Highlight your own parish as a place where the Body of Christ is alive and well. If your parish originated from one nearby, consider a visit to the mother Church.

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

20. We honor Mary as the Mother of God and our mother; we see her as a special model of faith.


CCC #967; Compendium # 88, 95, 196; USCCA pp. 145-148, 520

 - Pray to Mary, our special mother.

Vocabulary: gospel, rosary

21. Stories of saints are examples of people who have responded well to God's grace.

CCC #828, 957; Compendium # 165, 240, 242, 264, 429, 564; USCCA pp. 173, 297, 347


 - Students will appreciate that we must share our time and talents in ways that show our love for God and others.

Vocabulary: mission, saints

Catechists should reference the "Special Topics" section of the Curriculum Standards entitled "Saints" and "Vocations"

22. The saints are examples of faith for us to imitate.

CCC #828; Compendium # 165, 240, 242, 264, 429, 564; USCCA pp. 173, 297, 347

 - Students will experience the rosary as a means of prayer.

Luke 13: 10-13...Cure of Woman with a Hemorrhage Vocabulary: communion of saints

Acquaint your students with the Feast of All Saints

Catechists should reference the "Special Topics" section of the Curriculum Standards entitled "Saints" and "Vocations"

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

23. The Church consists of the “communion of saints” – the faithful on earth, those being purified in Purgatory, and those in Heaven.

CCC # 953, 962; Compendium # 194-195

Catechists should reference the “Special Topics” section of the Curriculum Standards entitled “Saints” and “Vocations”

24. We ask God to show us how to use our talents and abilities best in a vocation as a sister, brother, priest, deacon, married or single person.

CCC #873; Compendium # 188; USCCA pp. 126, 137, 269, 271, 273, 279, 375, 379, 451-452, 454, 531



- Students will appreciate that God calls a person to one of various vocations - married life, religious life, priesthood, or single life.

Vocabulary: ministry, vocation

Catechists should reference the “Special Topics” section of the Curriculum Standards entitled “Saints” and “Vocations”

25. Death is the beginning of living with God forever in heaven for those who are faithful.

CCC #1020; Compendium # 131 205-206, 354; USCCA pp. 153-162, 254



- After a long and healthy life on earth, we look forward to eternal life in heaven with God.

John 6...Jesus, Source of Life

Vocabulary: faithful, Savior

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

First Commandment

- **Stress that we worship God above all things.**
CCC #2131-2132, 2141

Second Commandment

- **Explain that "God calls each one by name," and so everyone's name is sacred.**
CCC #2158, 2167

Third Commandment

- **Describe that the Mass that we as Catholics attend on Saturday evening or Sunday morning is a gathering of celebration in fulfillment of God's law.**
CCC #2179

Fourth Commandment

- **Teach that the family is the "domestic church".**
CCC #2204
- **Explain to the children that respect and love is to be shown to parents, guardians, brothers, and sisters**
CCC #2219

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

Fifth Commandment

- **Explain that every human life is sacred because it has been created in the image of God.**

CCC #2258-2319

- **Teach that Jesus calls us to love even our enemies.**

CCC #2262

Sixth Commandment

- **Describe how a husband and wife freely and fully keep their marriage covenant (promise) to faithfully love each other as husband and wife**

CCC #2378

Seventh Commandment

- **Impress upon the students that God calls us to be good stewards of the world that He gave us.**

CCC #2415, 2456

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

Eighth Commandment

- **Inform the students that flattery and boasting are not permitted.**
CCC #2480-2481

Ninth Commandment

- **Teach respect of the human body as temples of the Holy Spirit.**
CCC #2519

Tenth Commandment

- **Present the sins of envy and covetousness as evil and sources of many other sins.**
CCC #2538-2559

SACRAMENTS

- 1. Inculcate the sacraments as sanctifying special moments in our lives and in the life of the Church.**
- 2. Assist the students to experience a deeper understanding of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as sacraments of initiation.**
CCC #1212, 1533

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

The Sacrament of Penance

- **Instruct the rituals of reception of the Sacrament of Penance according to his/her ability and moral development.**

CCC #1448, 1480, 1491

The Sacrament of Eucharist

- **Help the students to realize that we adore Jesus by making visits to the Blessed Sacrament.**

CCC #1373

The Sacrament of Holy Orders

- **Explain that the ordained ministry has three orders: bishop, priest, and deacon.**

CCC #1536, 1554, 1593

The Sacrament of Matrimony

- **Develop a deeper understanding of matrimony.**

CCC #1603

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

- **Describe Anointing of the Sick as a sacrament for the elderly who are in a weakened condition, or for the dangerously ill or the dying.**

CCC #1503, 1508, 1520-1521

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

**STUDENTS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING
PRAYERS:**

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Angel of God

Act of Contrition

Apostles Creed

Grace before and after meals

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament