

# Grade 2



## 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.

At this particular stage of development second graders can begin to project themselves imaginatively into the position/situation of others. They begin to see how their actions and the way they act in the world affects others. They admire their parents and trust other adults with authority. Your second grader has a strong desire to be part of the church community through the Mass and the sacraments of Eucharist and Penance. Your witness to faith and Catholic practices are vital because your child trusts you and 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 second grader’s faith development is important. 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
- ✠ Begin to sort out reality from imagination based on practical experience
- ✠ Need concrete experiences to understand concepts and religious truths
- ✠ Use classes and categories to order actions around them
- ✠ Can begin to project themselves imaginatively into the position/situation of others
- ✠ Begin to order the religious world
- ✠ View rules as inflexible
- ✠ Understand reality best in story form
- ✠ Identify with heroes and heroines of the Bible
- ✠ Identify with the stories of the Church (lives of saints for example)

- ✠ 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. Through preparation for the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, your child will begin to experience the saving presence of Christ in his/her life. Your child will learn the importance of the Eucharist as the center of our life and the source of spiritual nourishment and strength for the body and soul. He/she will come to realize that the sacrament of Penance is a celebration of God’s love and forgiveness that gives us grace and helps us to become more Christ-like.

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

- ➔ Attend and participate in Sunday Mass as a family. Afterward, talk about some of the things that occurred during Mass—mention especially the Eucharist (Holy Communion). Remind your child that this is the year he/she will make first Holy Communion. Share some of your memories about the sacrament with your child.
- ➔ Use everyday opportunities and interactions to help your child experience forgiveness and the importance of forgiving others who hurt us. When helping to prepare your child for the sacrament of Penance (Confession) allow him/her to express any concerns or fears he/she might have. Be sure to attend the parent meetings offered for the sacraments.
- ➔ Learn all you can about our Catholic beliefs. Obtain a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, and the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*.
- ➔ Talk with your child about what we believe and why we believe it. If you don’t know an answer to a question, ask your catechetical administrator or your pastor.
- ➔ Share your experiences of faith and talk about how you see God working in your life.
- ➔ Be open to your child’s questions, and as a family work together to experience our Catholic faith. Take advantage of parish events, show that as Catholics we are part of a community.
- ➔ Follow Jesus’ example and his teachings, truly do your best to live a good Christian life.
- ➔ 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 after Communion, Prayers and responses of the Mass (if necessary, get the prayers from your child’s parish catechist), prayer before the Blessed Sacrament (spontaneous or memorized).



## Grade 2

# 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 Second 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 2 CATECHISTS**

### **Guiding Principles**

#### **Catechists should:**

1. Bear in mind children's tendency to confuse past and present experiences because they are still limited in their sense of history and time. Clarify the differences - clarification is especially significant when introducing them to the examination of conscience. Need to assist children in sorting out what is real and relevant to the current examination of conscience, because they generally live in the present.
2. Show children love in action and attitude, consistently building them up with praise, recognition, and appreciation for the children to understand their personal value.
3. Help children form their consciences. Be careful to react consistently to an action, incident, or situation. (The children will realize that there are differences between what is dangerous, what is improper, what is annoying, what is accidental, and what is sinful).
4. Help to prepare the children to understand the forgiveness of God. Concentrate on the reality of God's love and mercy as a tremendous gift which God gives to us. Begin to develop a sense of sin and wrong doing.
5. Set an example for the formation of the children's values through their personal relationship with God, desire for union with God in prayer, and appreciation of the sacraments manifested through frequent reception.

### **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Children at this age:**

1. Begin to master "things."
2. Develop "control" of language.
3. Develop body skills.
4. Become orderly.

### **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Children at this age:**

1. Begin to develop real social awareness, but are still somewhat centered on "self."
2. Begin to develop sense of "community"; accept responsibility to do their part in classroom and home tasks, if assigned according to ability; realize that each person's task is important to the group.
3. Can experience adults outside of family as important "bridges" to move into the world.
4. Find it difficult to accept decisions of group when different from one's own. Can begin to dialogue in small group discussions as opposed to just responding one-on-one to teacher directed questions.
5. Are upset by negative comments, especially from someone in authority.
6. Exhibit curiosity and enthusiasm for life.
7. Boys and girls may prefer to sit/work in separate groups.

## COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

### Children at this age:

1. Are able to think logically about concrete, real objects or experiences they have known for the most part.
2. Learn best by doing, showing, and experiencing.
3. Are not ready for interpersonal dialogue.
4. Have difficulty seeing things through another person's point of view.
5. Tend to have their perceptions dominated by their own viewpoints.
6. Begin to generalize.
7. Set standards which are often too high for themselves (which lead to disappointment if the activity proves too difficult).

### 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.
3. Since there is teaching on the Eucharist in the grade you should also refer to the “Special Topic” section of the Curriculum Standards entitled “Teaching Reverence for the Eucharist.”

## Grade 2

### CURRICULUM STANDARDS

**Theme: We receive Jesus in a special way through the sacrament of Eucharist. Jesus forgives our sins in the sacrament of Penance.**

**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 the Blessed Trinity and name the three persons.
  - Recall the sacrament of Baptism as the sacrament in which we become part of God's family.
  - Recall the gifts Jesus gives us: a sharing in God's life through baptism; His forgiveness in the sacrament of Penance; His body and blood in the Eucharist.
  - Recall the following prayers:
    - Sign of the Cross
    - Our Father
    - Hail Mary
    - Glory Be
    - Prayer before and after meals
    - Angel of God

**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 is the Son of God, who became man.**

CCC #422-423, 461, 463, 470; Compendium #79, 86, 90; USCCA pp. 77-87


 Students will experience spontaneous prayer.

Luke 2: 10-14...The birth of Jesus

Vocabulary: Jesus, Immaculate Conception, Blessed Trinity, Christmas, Son of God, Advent

**2. Jesus died on the cross to save ALL people.**

CCC #604-605; Compendium #118; USCCA pp. 89-100


 - Students will understand that we must include ALL people in our caring and good actions because God calls us to be responsible for others.

Luke 15: 11-24...The Prodigal Son

Vocabulary: crucifix, Good Friday, sin, resurrection, Easter, Christ

**3. Jesus' obedience to the Father is a sign and model for our life.**

CCC #532, 606-607; Compendium #119; USCCA pp.89-100

 - Students will understand the friends and followers of Jesus act in loving ways and serve others in need.


Luke 23: 44-49...the death of Jesus

Vocabulary: saint, Christian, all saints

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

**4. Jesus is still present today in the Word, and in the Church, most especially in the Eucharist.**

CCC #1088, 1373; Compendium #222, 282; USCCA pp. 165-179, 213-232

 - Students will visit (tour) the church to discover the meaning of the different areas and objects used at Mass, such as the altar, tabernacle, crucifix, chalice, paten, vestments, baptismal font, Stations of the Cross, confessional. Appreciate the liturgical seasons of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, holy week, Easter, ordinary time) and customs, such as fasting and prayer.

Matthew 26: 26-30...Last Supper


Vocabulary: Bible, Mass, Eucharist, Blessed Sacrament, genuflection, lectionary

**5. Sacraments are special signs of Jesus' love.**

CCC #1210; Compendium #250

**6. We become members of God's family through baptism.**

CCC #804, 1213, 1267; Compendium #252; USCCA pp. 181-196

 - Students will accept one's self as belonging to the family of God.

Vocabulary: baptism, Christian, godparents, baptismal font, faith, Catholic, parish, creed

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

**7. God made each of us to grow up and help others in our own special way as a married person and parent, a single person, a sister or brother, or a priest.**

CCC #873; Compendium #178; USCCA pp. 126-136



- Students will value the family's role of sharing life, welcoming each other, teaching and protecting. Understand there are different ministries in the Church: Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ministers of hospitality, altar servers, music ministers, social ministers.

Vocabulary: bishop, Mass, priest, vestments, parish, stole, pope, responsibility

**8. When Jesus ascended to His Father. He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always.**

CCC #669, 690; Compendium #132; USCCA pp. 96-97, 99



- Students will understand the Church as the community of Jesus' followers gathered by the Spirit.

Vocabulary: Jesus, Pentecost, Blessed Trinity, Christ

**9. Jesus gave us special gifts of his presence: a sharing in God's life through baptism, his forgiveness in the sacrament of penance and his body and blood in the Eucharist.**

CCC #1373; Compendium #282; USCCA pp. 213-232



- Students will understand the Mass as our greatest prayer.

John 10:11-15...Good Shepherd

Vocabulary: altar, baptism, forgiveness, confess, confession, reconciliation, penance, Eucharist, Blessed Sacrament, Bread, chalice, wine, communion

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

**10. God gives us his voice in our hearts - our conscience - so that we can choose to do what God calls us to do.**

**11. When we follow our conscience as God made it, then we are truly free and happy.**

CCC #1733, 1777; Compendium #372, 363; USCCA pp. 323-335



- Students will understand that we must include ALL people in our caring and good actions because God calls us to be responsible for others.

Matthew 8: 10-14...The Lost Sheep

Luke 15: 1-7...The Lost Sheep

Vocabulary: conscience, temptation, parable

**12. We need to form our conscience by prayer and following God's laws.**

CCC #1785; Compendium #374

**13. God gave us the law of love: to love God and to love others as one's self.**

CCC #2055; Compendium #435; USCCA pp. 323-335



- Students will understand that we must include ALL people in our caring and good actions because God calls us to be responsible for others. Appreciate that we are sent forth to love and serve the Lord, using the gifts and talents God gave us.


Mark 12:41-44...The Widow's Mite

Luke 10:25-27...Good Samaritan

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

**14. The Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices.**


CCC #1742; Compendium #363; USCCA pp. 323-335


 - Students will understand the Church as the community of Jesus' followers gathered by the Spirit.

Vocabulary: conscience, Blessed Trinity, Pentecost, trinity

**15. God wants us to forgive others. Sin is a break in our relationship with God. Sin also breaks our relationship with others.**

CCC #386, 1469, 1487, 1829; 1850; Compendium #73, 310; USCCA pp. 71-72

 - Students will learn the Act of Contrition.


 - Students will experience being reconciled to God, self, and others through the sacrament of Penance.


Luke 17: 11-17...The Ten Lepers

Vocabulary: sin, forgiveness, sorrow

**16. If we are sorry, and we seek God's forgiveness in the sacrament of penance, God will always forgive us when we sin. In the sacrament of Penance we express sorrow for our sins and we are forgiven.**

CCC #1448, 1449-1460, 1847; Compendium #302-306, 392-393; USCCA pp. 322-335, 233-244

 - Students will learn the Act of Contrition.

 - Students will experience being reconciled to God, self, and others through the sacrament of Penance.

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

Luke 22: 54-62...Peter's Denial

Vocabulary: forgiveness, confession, absolution, examination of conscience, confess, reconciliation, contrition, penance, reconciliation room, responsibility, sacrament of Penance, lent, fasting, Stations of the Cross

**17. God wants us to forgive others.**

CCC #1469, 1829, 2842-2844; Compendium #310, 594-595

**18. Jesus gave the priest the power to forgive sins in the sacrament of penance.**

CCC #1461, 1495; Compendium #307; USCCA pp. 233-247



- Students will practice a daily examination of conscience.

John 20: 19-23...Who's Sins You Forgive

Vocabulary: forgiveness, examination of conscience, contrition, sorrow

**19. Jesus gave us himself in the Eucharist at the last supper.**

CCC #610; Compendium #120; USCCA pp. 213-232



- Students will understand there are different ministries in the Church: extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, ushers, and altar servers.


Luke 22: 7-20...Last Supper

Vocabulary: Last Supper, Holy Thursday, sacrifice, sacrament of the Eucharist, holy week

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

**20. In the sacrament of the Eucharist, Jesus continues to give himself to us in the bread and wine that become his body and blood.**

CCC #1333; Compendium #276; USCCA pp. 213-232


 - Students will value Sunday as the “Lord’s Day,” when we gather to offer praise and thanksgiving to God.

Mark 14: 22-26...Last Supper

Vocabulary: Blood of Christ, Body of Christ, thanksgiving, Lord’s Day

**21. We receive Jesus so that we can become more like Jesus.**

CCC #460, 752, 1068; Compendium #85, 147, 218; USCCA pp. 77-87, 111-123

 - Students will understand a genuflection before the Blessed Sacrament as a sign of reverence.

Mark 6: 31-44...Multiplication of the Loaves

Vocabulary: grace

**22. The Eucharistic Liturgy (Mass) is the most important prayer of the Church.**

CCC #1324; Compendium #274; USCCA pp. 213-232



- Students will experience the four types of prayer: prayer, thanksgiving, sorrow, and petition.



- Students will appreciate that we are sent forth to love and serve the Lord, using the gifts and talents God gave us.

Matthew 6: 9-13...The Lord’s Prayer  
thanksgiving

Vocabulary: prayer, praise, petition,

Textbook Chapter	Date to Teach	Date Completed

**23. The parts of the Mass are: listening to God's Word, offering ourselves with Jesus to the Father, and receiving Jesus in communion.**

CCC #1346; Compendium #277; USCCA pp. 213-232



- Students will pray the following: Act of Contrition, prayers and responses of the Mass.

Luke 24: 13-35...Emmaus Story

Vocabulary: Lectionary, sacrifice, psalms

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**

**Act of Contrition**

**A Morning Prayer**

**Prayer before and after meals**

**Responses to prayers at Mass**

**Angel of God**

**Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament (memorized or spontaneous)**