

## Religion Standards – Six Tasks of Catechesis

The Diocese of Dallas religion curriculum standards are organized around the six tasks of catechesis outlined in the National Directory of Catechesis. “Forming his disciples, Jesus entrusted to them “the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven”; he taught them how to pray; he opened his “meek and humble heart” to them; and he sent them “ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. The fundamental task of catechesis is to achieve this same objective: the formation of disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus instructed his disciples; he prayed with them; he showed them how to live; and he gave them his mission”(NDC, 20).

Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND, in *The Six Tasks of Catechesis: Key Principles and Practices for Forming Faith*, explains each task as follows:

1. Teaching knowledge of the faith means imparting the truths about the God whom Jesus revealed, the story of salvation in which Jesus is promised (Old Testament), the history of the church that Jesus founded, and the teachings of Jesus and his church.
2. Teaching liturgy is presenting the seven sacraments, the acts of Jesus today on behalf of his people. Chief among these is the Eucharist, during which the sacrifice of Jesus is re-presented and he unites himself to us and one another in Communion
3. Teaching prayer is leading children to foster a relationship with Jesus so that he becomes their best friend and their way, truth, and life.
4. Teaching moral formation is encouraging children to live like Jesus and make decisions in the light of his moral teachings.
5. Teaching community is informing children about Christ’s church, the family of God they belong to, and showing them how to take an active role in it.
6. Teaching mission means making children aware of Christ’s mandate to spread the Good News, motivating them to do so, and providing opportunities to fulfill this responsibility.

Because all six tasks are interconnected, when planning lessons, teacher should teach all six tasks. “Suppose a lesson teaches that the Bible is God’s word and that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors. It might cover the parts of the Bible, the kinds of books and how to interpret a Scripture citation. All of these pertain to the knowledge of faith. How improved the lesson would be if other tasks were added, for example in these ways:

- Teach the children to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit before reading the Bible (prayer)
- Refer to the readings from last Sunday’s Mass (liturgy)
- For practice in looking up a passage, choose some that are moral instructions (moral formation)
- Form groups and ask the children to share their favorite Bible passages (community)
- Give students the assignment of telling a sibling or a friend a story about Jesus (mission)

Glavich, Mary Kathleen. *The Six Tasks of Catechesis: Key Principles and Practices for Forming Faith*. Twenty Third Publications, 2016.

**I. Knowledge of Faith**

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p><b>1.1A</b> <b>Person of Jesus Christ</b> Know that Jesus invites every person to be in relationship with him.</p>	<p>1.1A.1 Know that Jesus is both human and divine, Son of Mary and Son of God (CCC 495)</p> <p>1.1A.2 Know some key events in Jesus’ life</p> <p>1.1A.3 Know that Jesus died on the cross to show God’s love for all people (CCC 609)</p>		
<p><b>1.1B</b> <b>Sacred Scripture</b> Recognize Sacred Scripture as the living word of God, a story of the covenant, and a guide for life today.</p>	<p>1.1B.1 Identify the Bible as a sacred book that reveals who God is and his love for us (CCC 105-108, 135-136)</p> <p>1.1B.2 Know that the Bible is full of stories that show God’s love or his people (e.g., Creation, Noah’s Ark, Moses, Good Shepherd, etc.)</p> <p>1.1B.3 Explain that the Gospels in the New Testament tell us the Good News about Jesus (CCC 121-125)^</p>		
<p><b>1.1C</b> <b>Creed</b> Explain and pray the Creed as an expression of our faith.</p>	<p>1.1C.1 Know that God created the world and made it good (CCC 295, 299; Gen 1:1-31)</p> <p>1.1C.2 Know that God desires all people to be happy with him now and forever in Heaven (CCC 1023-1024; Jn 14:2-3)</p> <p>1.1C.3 Identify God as Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (CCC 336)</p> <p>1.1C.4 Recognize that the Holy Spirit is a gift from God (CCC 733; Jn 14:16, 26)</p> <p>1.1C.5 Know that angels are God’s messengers sent to help and protect (CCC 329, 336)</p>		
<p><b>1.1D</b> <b>Church History</b> Describe Church structure and history.</p>	<p>1.1D.1 Know that God’s gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is the birthday of the Church (CCC 731-732)</p> <p>1.1D.2 Recognize saints as holy people who are examples of how to love God and one another (CCC 823)</p> <p>1.1D.3 Explain that we become a member of the Church, God’s family on earth in Baptism (CCC 804, 1277-1280)</p>		

## II. Liturgy and Sacraments

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<b>1.2A</b> <b>Paschal Mystery</b> Explain how the liturgy and sacraments inform, form, and transform us as disciples.	1.2A.1 Know that the liturgy teaches about the life of Jesus (CCC 1194) 1.2A.2 Know that the liturgy is the special prayer of God’s family (CCC 1068, 1140)		
<b>1.2B</b> <b>Sacraments</b> Explain the purpose of the sacraments and the centrality of the Eucharist.	1.2B.1 Identify the sacraments as special times when Jesus comes to be with us (CCC 1131) 1.2B.2 Recognize that through Baptism we are freed from Original Sin, share in God’s life, and become members of God’s family (CCC 1213) 1.2B.6 Describe the essential rite and symbols of Baptism (CCC 1241, 1243, 1262,1279) 1.2B.4 recognize that at Mass the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ (CCC 1375) 1.2B.5 Recognize the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation as a gift from God (CCC 1468-1469)		
<b>1.2C</b> <b>Liturgical Catechesis</b> Engage in the liturgical life of the Church.	1.2C.1 Describe the Mass as a time that God is present to us in His Word, in the Eucharist, in those assembled, and in the priest (CCC 1346, 1348-1355) 1.2C.2 Recognize that we celebrate Sunday as the Lord’s Day because of Jesus’ Resurrection (CCC 1166-67, 1193)^ 1.2C.3 Identify sacred objects and spaces in the church, e.g., altar, ambo, baptismal font, Book of the Gospels, tabernacle etc. (CCC 1182-1185) 1.2C.4 Identify liturgical postures and their meaning, e.g., standing (reverence); sitting (attentive listening); and kneeling (adoration) (CCC 1153-1158) 1.2C.5 Explain that the liturgical calendar tells us when to celebrate important events in the life of Jesus (CCC 1194) 1.2C.6 Connect each liturgical season to the color of the priest’s vestments		

## III. Morality

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<b>1.3A</b> <b>Christian Living</b> Explain Jesus as a model of how to live and love.	1.3A.1 Recognize that all people are made in God’s image (CCC 355) 1.3A.2 Understand that, by example, Jesus teaches us how to love God and each other (CCC 520, 1823; Jn 13:34-35; Jn 15:12) 1.3A.3 Understand that God gives rules to follow, to help all people love each other (CCC 1962, 1965) 1.3A.4 State the Two Great Commandments of God and their meaning (CCC 1965-1972) 1.3A.5 Illustrate ways Jesus teaches us to love God and our neighbor		
<b>1.3B</b> <b>Conscience</b> Describe how to make decisions in the light of Jesus’ moral teachings.	1.3B.6 Know that Original Sin occurred when Adam and Eve disobeyed God (CCC 396) 1.3B.1 Define sin as choosing to disobey God and hurt others (CCC 1849-1850; Gn 3) 1.3B.2 Describe the differences between an accident, a mistake, and a sin 1.3B.5 Explain the consequences of sin (CCC 1872) 1.3B.3 State that God gives us the ability to choose right or wrong (CCC 1730-1732) 1.3B.4 Recognize that the Holy Spirit works within each person to help them make good choices (CCC 720, 1830; Jn 14:26)		

### IV. Prayer

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<b>1.4A Prayer</b> Describe the role of prayer in spiritual growth.	1.4A.1 Explain the purpose of prayer (CCC 2590) 1.4A.2 Describe when, where, and how we pray (CCC 2591, 2680, 2720, 2757) 1.4A.3 Describe grace before and after meals as an example of shared family prayer^ 1.4A.4 Explain the purpose of and actively pray grade-level prayers ^		

### V. Community Life

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<b>1.5A Spiritual Growth</b> Demonstrate ways in which we grow spiritually.	1.5A.1 Know that it is God’s plan for people to grow in holiness (CCC 2013-2015, 2813; Lk 2:40, 52) 1.5A.2 Know that God gives grace to help people to grow more like him (CCC 2021-2023)		
<b>1.5B Relationships and Responsibilities</b> Know that Jesus teaches us how to grow in understanding, compassion and concern for others.	1.5B.1 Identify some ways Jesus shows people how to love God, each other, and creation (CCC 2407, 2415-2418; Gn 1:26; Lk 10:25-28) 1.5B.2 Know that because of their baptism all people have a special call to serve God (CCC 871) 1.5B.3 Realize that all people are made in God’s image (CCC 355; Gn 1:27)		
<b>1.5C Marriage and Family Life- Domestic Church</b> Describe families as the Church of home where we learn to love.	1.5C.1 Know that the Annunciation is when Mary said “yes” to God’s invitation to be the mother of Jesus (CCC 484-486, 490; Lk 1:26-38) 1.5C.2 Know that Joseph is the foster father of Jesus (CCC 437) 1.5C.3 Know that the family is where one first learns to pray (CCC 2204-2206)		
<b>1.5D Faith Communities</b> Describe how life in the Church is both personal and communal.	1.5D.1 Know that people become members of God’s family, the Church, at baptism (CCC 1213) 1.5D.2 Understand that those who believe in Jesus form God’s true family, the Church (CCC 752; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-35) 1.5D.3 Identify God’s family as consisting of people from all races, languages, and abilities (CCC 543; Mt 8:11)		
<b>1.5E Nature and Mission of the Church</b> Explain that the Church is the people of God, sent to bring the Good News.	1.5E.1 Know that God calls his Church to help build the Kingdom of God on earth (CCC 541, 567; Mt 6:33) 1.5E.2 Describe the role of the parish as a place of community worship (CCC 2179) K.5E.3 Name your school's parish K.5E.4 Name the pastor, bishop, and patron saint of the school		

**VI. Missionary Spirit**

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<b>1.6A</b> <b>Evangelization</b> Evangelize by witness in words and actions.	1.6A.1 Know that all baptized Christians are called to follow Jesus and be his disciples (CCC 1269-1270, 1694)		
<b>1.6B</b> <b>Vocation</b> Explain how each of us is called to a particular task in helping to reveal the Kingdom of God.	1.6B.1 Understand that each person is called to love God in a special way (CCC 52; Mt 9:9-13; Dt 6:4-5)		
<b>1.6C</b> <b>Social Action and Transformation</b> Engage in activities that foster social teachings of the Church.	1.6C.1 Know that a Christian is called to help build the Kingdom of God (CCC 2046; Mt 6:33) 1.6C.2 Give examples of how one can help others in need (Mt 25) 1.6C.3 Name ways that one can take care of God’s creation		

Explain the purpose of and actively pray the following prayers:									
PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross
Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)
Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel
		Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer
		Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary
		Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be
			Confiteor	Confiteor	Confiteor	Confiteor	Confiteor	Confiteor	Confiteor
			Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition
			Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful
			Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross
				Come Holy Spirit	Come Holy Spirit	Come Holy Spirit	Come Holy Spirit	Come Holy Spirit	Come Holy Spirit
				Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria
				St. Michael the Archangel	St. Michael the Archangel	St. Michael the Archangel	St. Michael the Archangel	St. Michael the Archangel	St. Michael the Archangel
				Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
					Nicene Creed	Nicene Creed	Nicene Creed	Nicene Creed	Nicene Creed
					Angelus	Angelus	Angelus	Angelus	Angelus
					Magnificat	Magnificat	Magnificat	Magnificat	Magnificat
						Apostle's Creed	Apostle's Creed	Apostle's Creed	Apostle's Creed
						Rosary	Rosary	Rosary	Rosary
							Memorare	Memorare	Memorare
							Lectio Divina	Lectio Divina	Lectio Divina
								Hail, Holy Queen	Hail, Holy Queen
								The Examen	The Examen
								Rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction	Rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction
									Liturgy of the Hours