



*Santa Clara de Asis*  
Children's Faith Formation  
**CURRICULUM PLANS**



### **Faith Development of Preschool and Kindergarten Child**

It is a time to develop a personal relationship with Jesus as a friend who teaches about God, and that they are a loved child of God. These children are open to new experiences and are full of wonder and curiosity.

The curriculum plan outlined is based on the six tasks of catechesis set for by the General Directory of Catechesis.

#### **Knowledge of the Faith**

- God loves them. (CCC 218-21)
- God created the world. (CCC 41-9; 279-83)
- God made us. (CCC 292; 842)
- Jesus' followers are called Christians. (CCC 561-2; 2156; 1271)
- The Bible is God's Word. (CCC 101-8)
- Mary is Jesus' mother and the Holy Family loved and cared for each other. (CCC 488-95; 532-4)

#### **Liturgical Education**

- The Church is the family of God. (CCC 319; 2402)
- Through Baptism, we are called children of God. (CCC 168; 526; 537)
- Explain that Jesus shared a meal with his friends as the Last Supper. He pointed to his sacrifice and left us the Eucharist as a memory of his death and resurrection. (CCC 2176; 1341-44)
- Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter are special celebrations in our church and homes.

#### **Moral Formation**

- That everything created by God is good. (CCC 319; 2402)
- Through stories of Jesus, we learn how to love others and how to act. (CCC 546; 1716)
- To use God's name with respect. (CCC 2144; 2142-8)
- To say "I am sorry" when we have not been nice to others. (CCC 1451; 2412; 2487)

#### **Teaching to Pray**

- Introduced to the Sign of the Cross. (CCC 2157)
- Mealtime prayer and why we thank God before we eat and sleep. (CCC 2637-8)
- Prayer as talking, listening, and thanking God. (CCC 2559-65)

#### **Living as a Christian**

- The Saints are heroes.
- We are part of God's family. (CCC 1267-1270)
- Jesus wants us to share our things. (CCC 2447)
- We need to care for and help one another. (CCC 2179)

#### **Promoting a Missionary Spirit**

- Prepare and model to the children to take on the mission of Jesus: to love others, serve those in need, and to spread the Good News of salvation.

#### **Safety**

- The children will be educated and empowered through the *Circle of Grace* program to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others.
  - Children will understand they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit
  - Children will be able to describe the *Circle of Grace* which God gives each of us.
  - Children will be able to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and personal boundaries.
  - Children will be able to identify all types of boundary violations.
  - Children will demonstrate how to take action if any boundary is threatened or violated.

## Eucharist I Curriculum Plan

### **Faith Development of First Grade Child**

They are curious, spontaneous, and energetic. They believe God is close to them. Children at this age can learn about faith by active involvement with sensory experiences. They are relational and can respond to Jesus' love for them by the love and respect given by those around them.

The curriculum plan outlined is based on the six tasks of catechesis set for by the General Directory of Catechesis.

### **Knowledge of the Faith**

- The children should continue to grow in their understanding of the Bible
  - Respect for the Bible as God's special book (CCC105)
  - Stories of God's love for us (CCC 120-21)
  - The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ (CCC 124; 128; 514)
  - The Bible is a collection of stories through which God speaks to us.
- Introduction of the Trinity (CCC 232; 237; 249; 253-56)
- God is our Father and Creator (CCC 240; 242; 279-81)

### **Liturgical Education**

- The children will grow in their understanding of the People of God by being introduced to the following concepts:
  - The Seven Sacraments (CCC 1210; 774; 1131)
    - Baptism
    - Reconciliation
    - Eucharist
    - Confirmation
    - Matrimony
    - Holy Orders
    - Anointing of the Sick
  - The Church's Liturgical Year:
    - Advent – special time of waiting
    - Christmas – celebrates the birth of Christ
    - Lent – ashes mark us as followers of Christ who can say we are sorry
    - Good Friday – the day we remember Jesus's death
    - Easter – celebration of Jesus' Resurrection
    - Ordinary Time – when we learn the life and teachings of Jesus
  - Introduce the prayers of the mass and responses
    - Lord have mercy, Glory to God, Alleluia, Holy Holy Holy, Amen, Gloria, Creed
  - During mass we listen to God's Word from the Bible, we pray, and we sing together.
    - Learning about the parts of the Mass and our church

### **Moral Formation**

- The Ten commandments and Jesus' Great Commandment (CCC 2052; 2055)
- Recognize sin as turning away from God, hurting ourselves and others, and the need to say "I am sorry." (CCC 1849 – 1850; 1451).
- Make choices and accept responsibility for them. (CCC 1778-80; 1786-89)

### **Teaching to Pray**

- Pray reverently. (CCC 2558-61)
- Introduction and appreciation of Saints as people who lived their lives putting God first. (CCC 823; 828; 946)
- Experience prayer as listening, talking to and praising God. (CCC 2559; 2639)
- Learn the Sign of the Cross, Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and other forms of prayer and devotions.

### **Living as a Christian**

- Respect the life and dignity of all people. (CCC 1929-33; 2284-87)
- Take responsibility to care for God's creation.
- Show love and care for all people. (CCC 1822 – 1829)

**Promoting a Missionary Spirit**

- Prepare and model to the children to take on the mission of Jesus: to love others, serve those in need, and to spread the Good News of salvation.

**Safety**

- The children will be educated and empowered through the *Circle of Grace* program to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others.
  - Children will understand they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit
  - Children will be able to describe the *Circle of Grace* which God gives each of us.
  - Children will be able to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spritual, and personal boundaries.
  - Children will be able to identify all types of boundary violations.
  - Children will demonstrate how to take action if any boundary is threatened or violated.

## Eucharist II Curriculum Plan

### Faith Development of a Second Grade Child

The second grade child loves structure and routine. Key objectives include: the structure of the Mass, confession and penance, and the Ten Commandments. The second grade child still enjoys working alone but eventually will be able to work in a small group setting. They have begun to develop a conscience and know right and wrong. They learn best through touch, movement, and exploration. Role play, games, and dramatizing Biblical stories are good methods for instruction.

The curriculum plan outlined is based on the six tasks of catechesis set for by the General Directory of Catechesis.

### Knowledge of the Faith

- The children should continue to grow in their understanding of the Bible
  - Respect for the Bible as God's special book (CCC105)
  - Stories of God's love for us (CCC 120-21)
  - The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ (CCC 124; 128; 514)
  - The Bible is a collection of stories through which God speaks to us, with an Old Testament and a new Testament. (CCC 121-30)
- Articulate the Trinity as three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (CCC 232; 237; 249; 253-56)
- God is our Father and Creator (CCC 240; 242; 279-81)
- Explain that at the Last Supper, Jesus gave us Himself in the Eucharist, and that every Mass we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus, give thanks and receive Jesus in Holy Communion. (CCC 1335; 1339; 1358-60; 1366)

### Liturgical Education

- The children will grow in their understanding of the People of God by knowing the following concepts:
  - The Seven Sacraments, signs of God's grace. (CCC 1210; 774; 1131)
    - Baptism
    - Reconciliation
    - Eucharist
    - Confirmation
    - Matrimony
    - Holy Orders
    - Anointing of the Sick
  - The Church's Liturgical Year:
    - Advent – special time of waiting
    - Christmas – celebrates the birth of Christ
    - Lent – ashes mark us as followers of Christ who can say we are sorry
    - Good Friday – the day we remember Jesus's death
    - Easter – celebration of Jesus' Resurrection
    - Ordinary Time – when we learn the life and teachings of Jesus
  - Describe the Mass as the gathering of God's people to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. (CCC1346; 1348-55)
  - Demonstrate the ability to go to confession, seek forgiveness, and receiving penance. (CCC 1484)
  - Demonstrate the ability to receive Holy Communion reverently during Mass. (CCC 1355)
  - Participate at mass by singing, responding, listening, and praying. (CCC 1345-47; 1438-55)

### Moral Formation

- The Ten commandments and Jesus' Great Commandment (CCC 2052; 2055)
- Recognize sin as turning away from God, hurting ourselves and others, and the need to say "I am sorry." (CCC 1849 – 1850; 1451).
- Make choices and accept responsibility for them. (CCC 1778-80; 1786-89)
- Sin is any thought, word, action that we freely choose to commit even though we know that it is wrong. (CCC 1850)
- Our conscience is a voice within our hearts where God calls us to love and to choose to do what is good and avoid sin. (CCC 1776)

**Teaching to Pray**

- Pray reverently. (CCC 2558-61)
- Introduction and appreciation of Saints as people who lived their lives putting God first. (CCC 823; 828; 946)
- Experience prayer as listening, talking to and praising God. (CCC 2559; 2639)
- Know the Sign of the Cross, Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, and other forms of prayer and devotions.

**Living as a Christian**

- Respect the life and dignity of all people. (CCC 1929-33; 2284-87)
- Take responsibility to care for God's creation.
- Show love and care for all people. (CCC 1822 – 1829)

**Promoting a Missionary Spirit**

- Prepare and model to the children to take on the mission of Jesus: to love others, serve those in need, and to spread the Good News of salvation.

**Safety**

- The children will be educated and empowered through the *Circle of Grace* program to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others.
  - Children will understand they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit
  - Children will be able to describe the *Circle of Grace* which God gives each of us.
  - Children will be able to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and personal boundaries.
  - Children will be able to identify all types of boundary violations.
  - Children will demonstrate how to take action if any boundary is threatened or violated.

### **Faith Development of Elementary Age Child**

The child enjoys participating in group work and being with friends. They have a more developed self-awareness and is beginning to reflect on how their actions may impact others. The child can think more logically and abstractly while at the same time makes concrete connections. They are prepared to internalize moral rules if the rules make sense to them. The child is more aware of their individuality and the need to assert or express this creatively. The stories of how saints lived their heroic lives are of great interest to this age, as these children are looking for models of good behavior.

The curriculum plan outlined is based on the six tasks of catechesis set for by the General Directory of Catechesis.

### **Knowledge of the Faith**

- Knowledge of the Trinity (CCC 232; 237; 249; 253-56)
- Demonstrate that God's revelation of salvation is known through words and deeds passed on to us through Sacred Scripture and Tradition (teachings and truths which the Church passes on to us). (CCC 74-75)
- Explain the fullness of God's revelation came in the person of Jesus Christ, God's son; all that God wished to reveal was made known in Christ. (CCC 65)
- Recognize that God gives us the gift of grace which is a participation in the life of God. (CCC 1996-1997)
- Identify the Pope as the visible head of the whole Church. (CCC 880-882).
- Define that the Church is a family and members, by their faith and Baptism, are called the people of God. That the church is Catholic, and that the creed is a summary of the Church's beliefs. (CCC 804; 857; 869)
- Articulate that Jesus is fully present in the bread and wine; through transubstantiation, the bread and wine are no more, only their appearance remains; what is present is Jesus Christ. (CCC 1357, 1413)

### **Liturgical Education**

- Explain that the Seven Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ, entrusted by the Church. Explain that the liturgical life revolves around the sacraments and give grace through the work of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1210; 774; 1131)
  - Baptism
  - Reconciliation
  - Eucharist
  - Confirmation
  - Matrimony
  - Holy Orders
  - Anointing of the Sick
- The Church's Liturgical Year and meaning (CCC 1163-71):
  - Advent and Christmas
  - Lent, Holy Week, and Easter
  - Ordinary Time
- Knowledge of the parts of the Mass and that it has a central place in the life of the Church. (CCC 1324-6; 1389; 2182).

### **Moral Formation**

- The Ten commandments that guide our lives and learn their meaning. (CCC 2052; 2055-57)
- Recognize sin as turning away from God, hurting ourselves and others, and the need to say "I am sorry." (CCC 1849 - 1850; 1451).
- Make choices and accept responsibility for them. (CCC 1778-80; 1786-89)

### **Teaching to Pray**

- Explain that prayer is a gift from God, a relationship with God, and that the life of prayer is the habit of being in God's presence and in communion with Him. (CCC 2559; 2564-5)
- Be able to say the following prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, Stations of the Cross, Nicene Creed, grace before and after meals, morning and nighttime prayers, and the Rosary. Also be able to understand there are other forms of prayer styles. (CCC 2688)

**Living as a Christian**

- Articulate that Jesus' new law of love tells us we must love God above all things and love others of diverse races, ages, cultures, and abilities. (CCC 1931-8)
- Identify the Works of Mercy, Spiritual and Corporal. (CCC 2447-8)
- Identify the Beatitudes give to us by Jesus Christ as a Christian ways of living. (CCC 1716-7)
- Articulate they are followers of Jesus and their behavior should show that they are Christians. (CCC 2013)

**Promoting a Missionary Spirit**

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**Safety**

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