



Parents' Guide to Diocesan Faith Formation Curriculum  
Grade 2

*'God's love is communicated to infants and young children primarily through parents.' Parents have shared the gift of human life with their children, and through Baptism have enriched them with a share in God's own life. Parents are the primary educators [of their children] in the faith. (NDC, 203 & 101)*

**What exactly is the Diocesan Faith Formation Curriculum?**

- A document that clearly states what participants in parish faith formation programs and Catholic elementary school religion classes should be able to know, understand, and do at each grade level.

**What is the aim of this guide?**

- The primary aim of this guide is to support parents as the first teachers of their children in their faith.
- To serve as tool for communicating the content for each age/grade level of children to parents.
- To provide some suggestions for integrating faith practices in their homes.

**How is it organized?**

- The curriculum is organized according to the six tasks of Catechesis, referred to as the **Six Key Elements** of a lived Catholic Faith; while always remembering that the outcome for catechesis is *growing in relationship with Christ*.

These six key elements are:

- o Knowledge of the faith;
- o Liturgy and Sacraments;
- o Morality;
- o Prayer;
- o Education for Living in the Christian Community;
- o Evangelization and Apostolic Life.

**For Each Element**

- There are standards or broad headings. All these standards should be covered in every program for adults, youth and children.

**For Each Standard**

- Each standard in turn has age appropriate indicators or knowledge, skills or behavior.
- These indicators will guide instruction and activities in faith formation programs and classrooms.

**What do the different fonts mean?**

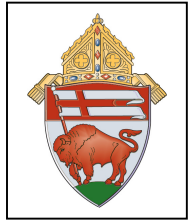
- **Core items that must be covered in all parish and school programs are in bold print.**
- *Enrichment items that are optional and can be covered if there is time are in italics.*

**What is meant by words being underlined?**

- Underlining means this is a vocabulary word to know. These words and their definitions will be available on the Diocesan Website on the curriculum page in a Glossary. When a simpler age appropriate definition is needed it is within the indicator itself.

**CHILD PROTECTION: SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING**

**Diocesan policy requires that a session on Safe Environment is offered to all children in our parish and school programs at the start of each program year. More information can be found on the Diocesan website and should be shared by parish catechetical leaders and principals with families at the beginning of each year.**



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### **Key Element I: Knowledge of the Faith**

#### **– What We Believe**

“Sacred Scripture has a preeminent position in catechesis because Sacred Scripture “presents God’s own Word in unalterable form” and “makes the voice of the Holy Spirit resound again and again in the words of the prophets and apostles.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church is intended to complement Sacred Scripture. Together with Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture constitutes the supreme rule of faith.” (NDC no. 24)

#### **At-Home Ideas:**

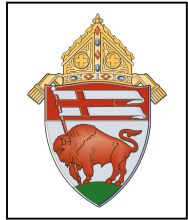
At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of the **Knowledge of the Faith** in your home: Parents of primary-grade children provide the most powerful influence on forming the faith of their children by living out their own faith with consistency and joy. Children experience God’s loving presence in the everyday care and nurturing provided by parents. Families can also engage in primary-age actions and discussions of the Catholic faith. When children hear about the faith but do not see it lived out, they question its importance.

**Standard 1** **CREED:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune and redeeming God as revealed in creation and human experience, in Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture, and as entrusted to the teaching office of the Church.

- Show understanding that God reveals himself in the **Holy Trinity** -three Persons in one God.
- Recognize that God is **holy**, all **wise** and all **loving**.
- Identify Jesus Christ as the **Son of God**, one with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- State that Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary.
- State that Jesus Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate, died on the cross and was buried.
- Show an understanding of the **Resurrection**; that God raised Jesus from the dead.
- State the meaning of **creed**; a short summary of our key beliefs.
- Identify the persons of the Holy Trinity in the **Creed**.
- Recognize human persons as made in the **image** and **likeness** of God and meant to live **forever** with God.
- Understand that God gives us the gift of **grace**; a participation in the life of God.
- Name Mary as Jesus’ mother, the **Mother of God**.
- Describe Mary as the **Mother of the Church**.

**Standard 2** **SACRED SCRIPTURE:** Read, comprehend and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God’s revelation through Sacred Scripture.

- Show understanding that the **Bible** is a special book that tells who God is and how we live as God’s children.
- Understand that both the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament** tell how God came to his people so that they could know him, love him and serve him.
- Identify the **Gospels** as stories about Jesus and what he taught us.
- Show understanding that Jesus called God his Father and is the light of the world.
- Recognize that Jesus lives and died to save us.
- Show understanding that **parables** tell us about the **Kingdom of God**.
- Explain the meaning of the **parables** of the lost sheep. (Lk 15:1-7) and the lost son (Lk 15:11-32).
- Explain meaning of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. (Jn 6:1-13)



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- Show understanding of Jesus as the **Bread of Life**. (Jn 6:35 and 6:51)
- Show understanding of Jesus' last meal with his disciples as a special sharing of his love. (Lk 22:14-20)
- Describe how we are to forgive as Jesus forgave.
- Give examples of what Jesus did after he was raised from the dead. (Mt 28:8-20; Mk 16:9-20; Lk 24:13-42)

### **Key Element II: Liturgy and Sacraments**

#### **- How We Celebrate**

"Faith and worship are as closely related to one another as they were in the early Church: faith gathers the community for worship, and worship renews the faith of the community... In her Liturgy, the Church celebrates what she professes and lives above all the Paschal Mystery, by which Christ accomplished the work of our salvation." (NDC no. 32)

#### **At-Home Ideas:**

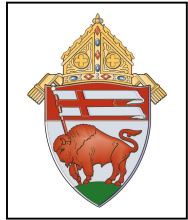
At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of the **Liturgy and Sacraments** in your home: *Parents educate and prepare the primary child for first celebration of the sacraments of Penance and reconciliation and Eucharist by connecting daily experiences to Gospel teachings and their own experience of these sacraments. Families participate at Sunday Mass with the parish community and discuss the meaning of symbols. Simply talking about the readings from Mass is a powerful tool to begin to engage your child more in the liturgy.*

**Standard 3** SACRAMENTS: Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as effective signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- Define sacrament as a **physical** sign instituted by Christ that gives us **grace**.
- Identify the Sacraments of **initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation)**.
- Describe signs, **symbols**, and **effects** of the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Exhibit understanding of the **Real Presence** of Jesus in the Eucharist under the form of bread and wine.
- Describe the Sacrament of the **Eucharist** as uniting us to God and one another.
- Describe **confirmation** as the sacrament that completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Distinguish between **mortal sin, venial sin, and accidents** for sacramental preparation.
- Define Sacrament of **Penance/Reconciliation** as a sacrament of forgiveness of sin and healing.
- Define **Baptism** as a sacrament that makes one a member of the Christian community and part of the Body of Christ.

**Standard 4** LITURGY: Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church as expressed in the liturgy year and epitomized in the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.

- Explain that at **Mass** we gather together as God's family and pray the responses.
- Point out that we belong to a parish family who gathers at Mass to celebrate the life of Jesus.
- Recognize the Eucharist as the greatest prayer in the life of the Church.
- Recognize that the Eucharist is a sacrament of love and service.
- Show awareness of the activity of the Holy Trinity in the **rites** of the sacraments.
- Identifies the essential elements in the Rite for receiving the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation including **confession of sin, contrition, firm amendment, absolution, and penance**.
- Model the elements of the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation and show familiarity with them.



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- Conduct a simple **examination of conscience**.
- Identify the major parts of the Mass: **Introductory Rites**, **Liturgy of the Word**, **Liturgy of the Eucharist**, and **Closing Rite**.
- Describe **Penitential Rite** as the time to show sorrow for sin and ask God for forgiveness in the prayer, "Lord Have Mercy".
- Identify the **Gloria** as a song of praise to the Holy Trinity
- Identify the components of the Liturgy of the Word and the prayer responses.
- Identify the **Prayer of the Faithful** as the final part of the Liturgy of the Word.
- Recognize the components of the Liturgy of the Eucharist: preparation of the altar and gifts, offering of the gifts, Eucharistic Prayer, communion rite, prayer after communion and prayer responses.
- Demonstrate understanding that during the Eucharistic Prayer the priest **consecrates** the bread and wine using the words of Jesus and changes the bread and wine into the **Body and Blood of Christ**; this is called **transubstantiation**.
- Explain that the **tabernacle** in a Catholic Church is where the Eucharist is kept before and after communion.
- Exhibit understanding that the priest ends Mass by sending us forth to do good works in the world..
- Identify the **seasons of the church year** as celebrations in the life of Jesus, Mary, and the saints.
- Describe the importance of participating in Mass as essential to living the Christian life.

### **Key Element III: Morality - How We Live**

"Christ is the norm of morality." Christian morality consists in following Jesus Christ, in abandoning oneself to him, in letting oneself be transformed by his grace and renewed by his mercy, gifts which come to us in the living communion of his Church." (NDC no. 42)

#### **At-Home Ideas:**

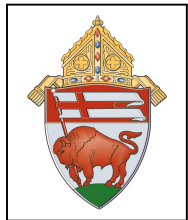
At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Morality** in your home: *Parents are responsible for forming a child's conscience through age appropriate instruction in right and wrong actions. Children will also notice the actions of their parents and other responsible adults and ask why they acted how they did. Parents have the opportunity to shape their child's view of the world and actions of people.*

**Standard 5** **Conscience:** Develop a moral conscience informed by church teachings.

- Discuss the meaning of grace and how grace affects the way we live our lives.
- Define and give examples of making good choices.
- Articulate the belief that God gives us a free will to choose what is right and to avoid evil.
- Recall that we love because God has loved us first.
- State that love is when we choose to do what is right and good.
- State that sin is when we choose to do wrong or not to do good.

**Standard 6** **Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, conversion, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- Recognize ourselves as good and deserving of love, created in God's image and likeness (See Genesis 1:27).
- Explain that God created us to know, love, and serve him.
- Show respect for others and ourselves as human persons belonging to the family of God.
- Discuss that respect for ourselves and others includes telling those who are harming us, themselves or others (for example, by bullying) to stop or seeking help from parents or other adults when they do not stop.



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- Identify how the Ten Commandments guide us in how to love God and love others.
- Explain that we live lovingly in our family..
- Give examples of how we can show respect for our parents.
- Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community..
- Show respect for all humanity..
- Recognize that **Catholic Social Teaching** is the term for how the Church continues to teach us to treat others and all creation as Jesus taught us to treat them so that we live differently.
- Explain that what we have is a gift from God and that we are called to share what we have been given with others.

### **Key Element IV: Prayer** **- How We Pray**

“God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer” (CCC no. 1075). His initiative comes first; the human response to his initiative is itself prompted by the grace of the Holy Spirit... In prayer, the Holy Spirit not only reveals the identity of the Triune God to human persons but also reveals the identity of human persons to themselves. (NDC no. 34)

### **At-Home Ideas:**

At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Prayer** in your home: *Families help children memorize traditional prayers such as the Our Father and Hail Mary through daily repetition. The family prays together regularly at mealtime, bedtime, and special seasonal observances and to commemorate significant life events. The model of a parent in prayer can be the most inspiring catechesis on prayer a child will receive.*

**Standard 7 PRAYER:** Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer and acknowledge prayer as the primary way we deepen our knowledge of God in the community.

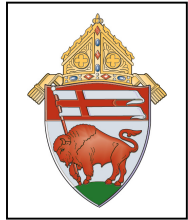
- Recite a prayer of contrition.
- Identify the Sign of the Cross as a prayer to the Trinity.
- Recognize that Jesus prayed to God His Father and taught us to say the "Our Father."
- Memorize the Apostles' Creed.
- Write and recite a prayer for someone special who has died.
- Recite the Hail Mary to praise God and to ask for Mary's intercession.
- Recognize prayer as blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise.
- Identify prayer as communication with God who loves us.
- Recognize hymns as prayers.
- Explain that at Mass we gather not just to listen and pray responses but to pray the whole Mass.
- Show an understanding of the prayer of adoration during Mass and before the Blessed Sacrament.

**Memorize and recite the Apostle's Creed.** *Please note that the full texts of the prayers and practices for Catholics to teach your child are found in the online glossary and also in a downloadable document online: Appendix 2 **KEY PRACTICES AND PRAYERS FOR CATHOLICS**.*

#### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
His only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy  
Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day He rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and  
is seated at the right hand of the  
Father. He will come again to judge



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the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer** (Our Father, *Pater Noster*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be  
thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

### **Hail Mary** (*Ave Maria*)

Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you (thee);  
blessed are (art) you (thou) among women,  
blessed is the fruit of your (thy) womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### **Glory Be** (*Gloria Patri*)

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen.

### **Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community - How We Live in the Community, the Church**

“We were created as social beings who find fulfillment only in love – for God and for our neighbor. If we are truly to gaze upon him who is the source of our joy, we need to do so as members of the people of God (cf. Spe Salvi no. 14). If this seems counter-cultural, that is simply further evidence of the urgent need for a renewed evangelization of culture.” (Benedict XVI – 16 April 2008 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception)”

#### **At-Home Ideas:**

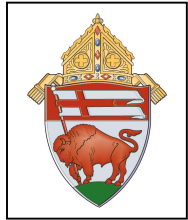
At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Education for Living in the Christian Community** in your home: *Living Christian community life does not happen spontaneously, it must be taught carefully (GDC, 77). Children are like apprentices learning at the feet of the master carpenter, Christ, who has shared this task with parents. Parents model the Christian virtues to their children and how to act in public settings with love and compassion.*

**Standard 8** **CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of believers, as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charisms, members and the communion of saints.

- State that the **Church** was started by Jesus to help him spread the Good News and to baptize people as his disciples.
- Show understanding of what it means to be a member of the **Catholic Church**.
- Exhibit understanding that all who are baptized belong to the Church forever.
- Articulate how the Church continues the mission of Jesus Christ.
- Explain how the Catholic Church is a **sign** of God's love for the world.

**Standard 9** **ECUMENISM:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with other Catholic (Eastern), Orthodox, and Christian churches.

- Understand that Jesus founded the Catholic Church that we might all be one so that the world may believe that the Father sent him. (Jn 17:20-23)
- Identify the Catholic church as a community of Jesus' followers.
- Understand that we pray for unity in the Church because Jesus also prayed "that they all may be one".



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- Show understanding that there are many Christians who are baptized and have a common belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but belong to other churches.*
- Name some denominations of Christian churches (for example: Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist, and Baptist).*
- Understand that other Christians share a common baptism and belief in Jesus even though they do not share the fullness of all that Jesus taught us.**

**Standard 10** CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

- Give examples of how we can treat others the way Jesus treated others.**
- Illustrate ways in which we can care for our bodies.**
- Explain what we mean when we say we are created in God's image.**
- Define extended family.*
- State that it is important to treat our family and friends with respect.*
- Show understanding that we respect others and ourselves as human persons belonging to the family of God.**
- State that we live lovingly in our family.*
- Know that we should respect our parents.**

**Standard 11** VOCATION: Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ responding in faith by participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- Explain that all Christians follow Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**
- Express how my parents/guardians help me to live the way Jesus wants me to live.*
- Describe the role of the priest as minister of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation.**
- State that God calls each of us to serve in special ways.*
- State that God calls each of us to serve in special ways.*
- State that God calls some to marriage, some to priesthood/religious life and some to be single.**

### **Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life**

– **How we, as Individuals and Community, Live in Service to the World.**

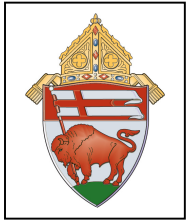
*“Only if we are aware of our calling, as individuals and as a community, to be part of God’s family as his sons and daughters, will we be able to generate a new vision and muster new energy in the service of a truly integral humanism. The greatest service to development, then, is a Christian humanism that enkindles charity and takes its lead from truth, accepting both as a lasting gift from God.” (Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, no. 78)*

### **At-Home Ideas:**

At the primary or early elementary school level, these are things you can do as a family to strengthen the teaching of **Evangelization and Apostolic Life** in your home: *Parents influence children through the witness of their lived faith expressed in integrity and service. Children are made aware of service and Catholic social teaching through inclusion in service projects when possible. Issues related to justice, peace, respect for life, and other moral issues are discussed routinely around the dinner table or elsewhere at a level understandable to the primary-age child. To make service projects more meaningful for primary children, it is useful to help them process the experience. These projects teach children to think of others and prepare them for serving/evangelizing others through word and action.*

**Standard 12** CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Know critique and apply social justice and stewardship principles to societal situations in a way that acknowledges and affirms the dignity of the human person and community.

- Define “created in God's image.”**



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- Define "extended family."
- State how, as Christians, we promise to care for all of God's creation.**
- Show understanding that we respect others and ourselves as human persons belonging to the family of God.*
- State that we are called to share what we have with others.**

**Standard 13** **INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with Jews, Muslims, and all faith traditions.

- *Exhibit understanding that many people believe in God even though they are not baptized and know that God loves them.*
- **Know that we respect people of all faiths because God loves all people.**

**Standard 14** **MISSIONARY VOCATION:** Demonstrate an appreciation for Catholic missionary and evangelization efforts through our parish community, its culture, worship, sacramental life, and service.

- **Demonstrate how and when you might share your story of faith in Jesus with others.**
- **Recognize that God sent his greatest gift, his son Jesus, to show us how to live on this earth.**
- **Recognize that the Eucharist is a sacrament of love and service.**
- *Participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world.*
- **Explain the meaning of "Blessed are the peacemakers." (Mt 5:9)**
- **Identify the different ministries/works of priests, brother, sisters, and deacons.**
- **Discuss that one way to be holy is to care for the earth and its resources as a gift from God.**
- *Read stories about missionaries.*
- *Explain that we are called to cooperate in school, church and community projects.*

*The most important task of the catechesis of children is to provide, through the witness of adults, an environment in which young people can grow in faith. (NDC, no. 205)*