

## 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:**

- ❖ 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.

## **Grade 3 Catechists**

### **Guiding Principles**

#### **Catechists can:**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Stimulate thought by including a variety of methods and activities. Distribute responsibility throughout the group which will enable the children to develop self control.
- 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.
- Assume responsibility for involving the children in prayer and in Christian service.
- Provide example as well as instruction that will encourage the children in a life of prayer and service.

### **Physical Development**

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

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

### **Social and Emotional Development**

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

- Are in an age of "I" and "you."
- Have increased awareness of social sense; may begin to feel pre-adolescent pressure to wear the right clothes, etc.
- Are more ready to share than at an earlier age, sometimes even caring for younger children.
- Begin to place great emphasis on friendships (best friends begin to develop); best friends may be good dialogue partners in group discussions.

- 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.
- Grow into making observations about the world around them, and exercise curiosity for life.
- Can begin to take responsibility for planning (i.e. prayer service).

## **Cognitive Development**

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

- Can do more logical thinking with concrete objects and events in the present.
- Begin to be able to see things from another's point of view, though not consistently.
- Are rapidly developing communication skills.
- Have speaking vocabularies which exceed reading vocabularies.
- Have an increasing ability to talk with others and not simply to them.
- Are enthusiastic. Are at peak creativity.
- Are developing the self-confidence needed to work on projects.
- Are interested in learning games.
- Begin to be "data" collectors.
- Display curiosity about life, nature, and people, but are able to learn more readily from their observations.
- Are mastering the ability to read and enjoy using this skill.

### **NOTES**

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 GUIDELINES

**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
    - Grace before and after meals (optional)
    - Act of Contrition
    - Prayers and responses at Mass
  - Review the sacraments of Eucharist and penance.




# THIRD GRADE

## CURRICULUM GUIDELINES


**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

- ❖ **Jesus tells us about God's kingdom through his words and actions.**

**Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_

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

- ❖ **Jesus invited His followers to become part of the kingdom of God.**

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

**Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_



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


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

Vocabulary: People of God, Son of God

- ❖ **Jesus called the apostles to be servants among his people.**

**Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_

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.”

- ❖ **Jesus chose Peter as the leader of the apostles.**







**Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_

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)

- ❖ **The Holy Spirit gathered the apostles at Pentecost.** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_  
 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
  
- ❖ **The Holy Spirit draws Jesus' followers together as one Christian community.** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_  
 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
  
- ❖ **The Church is the family of God.** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_  
 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
  
- ❖ **Jesus is still present in the Church especially through the Eucharist and other sacraments.** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_  
 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
  
- ❖ **Bishops, as successors to the apostles, are the leaders of Jesus' people from the beginning of the Church, through today and until Christ returns.** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_  
 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 Pittsburgh, cathedral  
*Consider a visit to St. Paul Cathedral: see Appendix IV.*
  
- ❖ **The Pope as successor of St. Peter, the first apostle, is the head of the whole Church.** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_  
 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

- ❖ **The Pope and bishops guard the teaching of Christ and help us to understand what we are to believe.** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_

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

*Acquaint your students with Saint John Neumann: see Appendix III.*

- ❖ **We are called to believe what the Church teaches.** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_

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

- ❖ **We are united in sharing the Eucharist, our beliefs, praying together, and sharing with others (the Church is One).** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_

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

- ❖ **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).** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_

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



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

Vocabulary: holy, Scripture

- ❖ **The Ten Commandments and the two great commandments show us how to love God and others.** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_

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







- ❖ **The Apostles Creed summarizes our basic beliefs as followers of Jesus.** **Date completed**\_\_\_\_\_

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

- ❖ **We belong to the Catholic Church, the living body of Jesus Christ today.** **Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_  
 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.*
  
- ❖ **We honor Mary as the Mother of God and our mother; we see her as a special model of faith.** **Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_  
 CCC #967; Compendium #88, 95, 196; USCCA pp. 145-148, 520  
 - Pray to Mary, our special mother. Vocabulary: gospel, rosary
  
- ❖ **Stories of saints are examples of people who have responded well to God's grace.** **Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_  
 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
  
- ❖ **The saints are examples of faith for us to imitate.** **Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_  
 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*
  
- ❖ **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.** **Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_  
 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
  
- ❖ **Death is the beginning of living with God forever in heaven for those who are faithful.** **Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_  
 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

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

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Act of Contrition

Apostles Creed

Grace before and after meals

