

# 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 Kindergartners?*

### **Faith Development**

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

- ❖ Need parents and family life as a ground for their faith.
- ❖ View size, power, and position as reasons for responding to God, parents, and rules.
- ❖ Need to share in common language and rituals of faith.
- ❖ Can begin to develop a personal relationship with God, especially through prayer.
- ❖ Form dispositions toward the world and attitudes toward worship that will last a lifetime.
- ❖ Need continuity and routine to provide order to their world.
- ❖ Focus on images rather than reality.
- ❖ Need help to distinguish imagination from reality.
- ❖ Need assurance that scary wishes do not make bad things come true.
- ❖ View events in isolation.



## **Guiding Principles**

### **Catechists should:**

- Provide activities involving the whole child (note: in both gross and small motor skills, be sensitive to children who are developing more slowly, avoid frustration for the children). Balance your activities with quiet times and the opportunity for movement.
- Give individual attention to children by using their names in a special way. Celebrate birthdays, baptism, and anniversaries. Plan social activities and celebrations which revolve around the changing seasons, and the liturgical seasons and feasts in the Church year, which may be inclusive of other family members.
- Give praise for accomplishments. Build on childrens' desire to please others as a first step in deepening a sense of selflessness and concern for others.
- Assist children in developing a sense of responsibility and service to others by rotating simple chores. Role play different jobs both in the home and in the community.
- Allow the children to make decisions as a basis for developing a social conscience.
- Use symbols to enhance learning such as bread, water, light, heart.
- Provide brief periods of silence to allow children to focus and internalize what has been learned.
- Review and repeat as necessary. Present the same theme in different ways, using different materials or activities—retelling of stories, especially those from the bible, is a good example.



## **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Kindergarten**

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

- Are physically active, but have less energy than three and four year olds.
- Are more mature in motor control; hop, skip, are more balanced and poised. Participate in boisterous play.
- Build with blocks, have continued interest in puzzles.
- Have greater small muscle control in hands, enabling them to draw, cut.
- Usually have defined hand preference.
- Have increased competence in self-care.
- Are capable of sitting still for longer periods of time (10-15 minutes).

## **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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

- Are strongly influenced by adults and identify with them.
- Are moving into a larger circle beyond family.
- Need continuing signs of affection, belonging, encouragement and praise.
- Like to do what others do; however, dislike being compared to other children, and may be damaged by this.
- Finish self-initiated tasks and take pride in work; are self motivated and self-sufficient.
- Are friendly and outgoing; have a good sense of humor, like jokes and tricks.
- Learn to play in small groups, but still may have difficulty sharing.
- Need freedom in choosing friends; are expanding their social contact to those outside the family.
- Develop a social relationship between self and teacher; like to role-play adult situations.

## **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**

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

- Are curious and eager to learn.
- Learn best through active involvement.
- Explore world symbols through the sensory mode.
- Begin to distinguish reality from fantasy.
- Can symbolize thoughts through drawings.
- May enter the “representative” stage of art—expressing their experiences more realistically.
- Have longer attention spans (10-15 minutes).
- Can remember and carry out two or three instructions with gradual development of listening skills.
- Talk without infantile articulation.
- Can narrate a long tale.
- Are eager to listen to stories and then retell them in their own words.
- May talk incessantly.
- Enjoy activities that allow an exchange of ideas among children.
- Can focus on detail and begin also to see things as a whole.
- Do not consider all the evidence in making judgments but will focus on one aspect.

# Kindergarten

## CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

**Theme:** God calls us to celebrate His love for us through His gifts of creation. Jesus reveals God's love for us and teaches us to love God, ourselves and others. We, God's family, continue to build God's Kingdom through our worship and by helping other people.


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*.


**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

❖ **God is the loving Creator of all things.** Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

CCC #293, 338; Compendium #53, 62; USCCA pp. 55-56



- Students will appreciate the need to belong to God's family.



- Students will participate in different ways of giving thanks to God for creation, family, and ourselves.



- Students will participate in activities that show we care for God's creation.

Genesis 1:1-31... Creation; Creation of Man & Woman

Vocabulary: God, bible

❖ **God created each person and loves them as they are.**

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

CCC #357, 1936-1937; Compendium #66, 413; USCCA pp. 67-68



- Students will name ways God has shown His love for each of us. Appreciate the need to belong to God's family.



- Students will participate in different ways of giving thanks to God for creation, family, and ourselves.



- Students will participate in activities that show we care for God's creation. Explore ways to show respect for ALL people.

Genesis 1:26-31... Creation of Man & Woman    Vocabulary: God, Bible

❖ **God gives us many people to love.**

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

CCC #1878; Compendium #401; USCCA pp. 377-381



- Students will appreciate the special persons that God has given us to love, particularly our parents, family, teachers, priest, and friends. Appreciate the need to belong to God's family.



- Students will participate in different ways of giving thanks to God for creation, family, and ourselves. Participate with God's family at the Sunday Liturgy.



- Students will explore ways to show respect for ALL people. Develop a sense of gratitude for people who care for us.

Genesis 1:26-31... Creation of Man & Woman    Vocabulary: God, Bible

❖ **God shows love for us through the love of our parents, friends, priests, brothers or Sisters.**

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

CCC #2222, 2223, 2226; Compendium #460; USCCA pp. 378-379



- Students will appreciate the special persons that God has given us to love, particularly our parents, family, teachers, priest, and friends. Appreciate the need to belong to God's family.



- Students will participate in different ways of giving thanks to God for creation, family, and ourselves. Develop a sense of gratitude for people who care for us. Participate with God's family at the Sunday Liturgy.



- Students will develop a sense of gratitude for people who care for us.

Genesis 1:26-31... Creation of Man & Woman    Vocabulary: God, Bible

❖ **God calls us to grow closer to Him each day, to love Him more and more.**

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

CCC #2697; Compendium #2; USCCA pp. 62-63, 119



- Students will appreciate the need to belong to God's family.



- Students will participate with God's family at the Sunday Liturgy.



- Students will participate in formal prayer. Encourage prayer celebrations at home.

Genesis 1:26-31... Creation of Man & Woman    Vocabulary: God, Mass, prayer

❖ **The Bible is a special book that tells us about God's love.**

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

CCC #104; Compendium #18; USCCA pp. 23-27



- Students will name ways God has shown His love for each of us.



- Students will experience God's presence through the following: song, dance, listening, gestures, reflections, silence, short spontaneous prayer.



- Students will encourage activities that are helpful at home, school, church, and community as a way to show our love and gratitude for God.

Luke 18:15-17... Jesus and the Children    Vocabulary: Bible, prayer

❖ **Jesus came to teach us to love God, ourselves, and ALL people of every race, age, culture, and ability.**

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

CCC #775, 776, 1934-1937; Compendium #152, 412-413; USCCA pp. 79-80, 91



- Students will appreciate the special persons that God has given us to love, particularly our parents, family, teachers, priest, and friends.



- Students will participate in different ways of giving thanks to God for creation, family, and ourselves.



- Students will explore ways to show respect for ALL people. Develop a sense of gratitude for people who care for us. Appreciate people who are models of love and service in our community.

Luke 1:26-31... Annunciation    Luke 2:1-20... Birth of Jesus

Mark 1:16-20... Calling of Disciples    Luke 10:25-37... Good Samaritan

Luke 17:11-19... Grateful Leper

Vocabulary: advent, Christmas, Holy Family, Jesus, Joseph, Mary

❖ **Jesus is God's Son and He reveals God's love to us.**

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

CCC #442, 458; Compendium #83, 85; USCCA pp. 81-81, 85-87



- Students will name ways God has shown His love for each of us. Appreciate the special persons that God has given us to love, particularly our parents, family, teachers, priest, and friends. Appreciate the need to belong to God's family.



- Students will participate in different ways of giving thanks to God for creation, family, and ourselves. Participate with God's family at the Sunday Liturgy.



- Students will participate in various prayer celebrations for the seasons of advent, Christmas, lent, and Easter within class time, and in parish gatherings.



- Students will encourage activities that are helpful at home, school, church, and community as a way to show our love and gratitude for God.

Luke 1:26-31... Annunciation

Luke 2:1-20... Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:41-51... Finding in the Temple

Vocabulary: advent, Christmas, God, Jesus, Mary

❖ **We communicate with God through different prayer experiences.**

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

CCC Particularly #2688 and all of Part IV; Compendium #565; USCCA pp. 478, 491



- Students will name ways God has shown His love for each of us.



- Students will participate in different ways of giving thanks to God for creation, family, and ourselves. Develop a sense of gratitude for people who care for us. Participate with God's family at the Sunday Liturgy.



- Students will participate in formal prayer. Participate in various prayer celebrations for the seasons of advent, Christmas, lent, and Easter within class time, and in parish gatherings. Encourage prayer celebrations at home.





- Students will encourage activities that are helpful at home, school, church, and community as a way to show our love and gratitude for God.


Luke 11:1-4... Lord's Prayer


Vocabulary: amen, prayer

- ❖ **Mary is Jesus' mother and our mother.** **Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_  
CCC #495, 963; Compendium #97, 100; USCCA pp. 144-145, 146, 148, 520

 - Students will appreciate the special persons that God has given us to love, particularly our parents, family, teachers, priest, and friends. Appreciate the need to belong to God's family.

 - Students will participate in different ways of giving thanks to God for creation, family, and ourselves.


 - Students will encourage prayer celebrations at home.


 - Students will develop a sense of gratitude for people who care for us.


Luke 2:1-20... Birth of Jesus      Luke 2:41-51... Finding in the Temple  
Luke 23:33-47... Death of Jesus      Luke 24:1-12... The Easter Story


Vocabulary: advent, Christmas, Holy Family, Jesus, Joseph, Mary

- ❖ **Joseph is the foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary.**
- ❖ **Mary, Jesus, and Joseph are called the Holy Family.** **Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_  
CCC #437, 564; Compendium #104; USCCA pp. 79, 359

 - Students will appreciate the special persons that God has given us to love, particularly our parents, family, teachers, priest, and friends. Appreciate the need to belong to God's family.

 - Students will participate in different ways of giving thanks to God for creation, family, and ourselves. Participate with God's family at the Sunday Liturgy.


 - Students will participate in various prayer celebrations for the seasons of advent, Christmas, lent and Easter within class time, and in parish gatherings.


 - Students will develop a sense of gratitude for people who care for us.


Luke 2:1-20... Birth of Jesus      Luke 2:41-51... Finding in the Temple

Vocabulary: Christmas, Holy Family, Jesus, Joseph, Mary

- ❖ **We become members of God's family through baptism.** **Date completed** \_\_\_\_\_  
CCC #804, 1213, 1267; Compendium #252; USCCA pp. 193, 197

 - Students will appreciate the need to belong to God's family.

 - Students will participate with God's family at the Sunday Liturgy.

 - Students will develop a sense of gratitude for people who care for us.

Vocabulary: baptism, Holy Family

❖ **During the Mass, Jesus is with us in a special way.** Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

❖ **The Mass is a special meal that Jesus celebrates with His family.**  
CCC #1329, 1373; Compendium #275, 282; USCCA pp. 170-171, 222-227

✠ - Students will participate with God's family at the Sunday Liturgy.

Luke 22:14-20... Last Supper Vocabulary: last supper, Mass, prayer

❖ **In the Mass, we remember that Jesus gave his life for our happiness.** Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

CCC #1364-1365; Compendium #280; USCCA pp. 220-222

✠ - Students will participate with God's family at the Sunday Liturgy.

Luke 22:14-20... Last Supper Luke 23:33-47... Death of Jesus

Luke 24:1-12... The Easter Story

Vocabulary: cross, Easter, last supper, lent Mass, prayer

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

Sign of the Cross  
Our Father  
Blessing before meals

