



At-Home and Parish Faith Formation Goals



The Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education and Evangelization has set standards for educating our parish children about our Catholic faith and its traditions. Since the GOLF catechists, parish staff and your family are partners in this mission, we are providing some of the standards here.

With a minimum of weekly Mass attendance and GOLF, the parish provides about 70 hours of formation PER YEAR (85 hours during sacramental years) – that’s about two weeks of full-time education a year. You can see how important your role is in sharing the faith, teaching prayers, and participating in the richness of our traditions during the “in-between” times.

Please find the grade-level of your child(ren) and work with them on these standards so that when we meet again in the Fall, we are reinforcing and complementing your own teaching.

Prayers, traditions and the Catechism of the Catholic Church can be found for FREE at <http://www.usccb.org>.

A child in **FIRST GRADE** should be able to:

- Describe how the church is a special and sacred place
- Know God as a loving Father and Creator
- Know Jesus as the Son of God
- Recognize that the Holy Spirit can help us make good choices
- Recognize Mary as the Mother of Jesus and our Mother
- Understand there are special seasons in the Church year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Holy Days
- Understand the Bible contains God’s words for His people
- Demonstrate how we show concern for those in need
- Make the Sign of the Cross, begin learning the Lord’s Prayer and Hail Mary

A child in **SECOND GRADE** should be able to do the above in addition to:

- Recognize we belong to a parish family
- Recognize and begin to learn the prayers and responses during the Mass
- Identify the Holy Trinity
- Explain that God loves us even when we hurt others
- Begin to understand the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist

- Point out that we treat others the way Jesus did
- Understand that we share what we have with others
- Know the Sign of the Cross, Lord’s Prayer and Hail Mary by memory

A child in **THIRD GRADE** should be able to do the above in addition to:

- Know that the 12 Disciples helped Jesus begin his Church on earth
- Understand that Advent comes before Christmas and Lent precedes Easter
- Identify God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Understand that Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation are Sacraments of Initiation
- Explain that Jesus lived historically and is alive now in our church and families
- Understand how the Sacrament of Reconciliation reconciles us with God
- Reverently receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time
- Know that all life is a gift from God
- Learn the Act of Contrition by memory
- Begin serving others in our community and the parish
- Know the parts of the Mass along with the appropriate responses

A student in **FOURTH GRADE** should be able to do the above in addition to:

- Understand that our church welcomes members through Baptism
- Recall that the Holy Spirit guides us to choose good over evil
- Identify that we live our faith by celebrating the Eucharist, living in love and sharing the Good News of Jesus' teachings
- Participate regularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Begin to learn how to find passages in the Bible
- Know the 10 Commandments
- Know that God wants us to work for justice in our homes, communities and world
- Know that the Rosary is form of prayer

A student in **FIFTH GRADE** should be able to do the above in addition to:

- Participate in Church as a celebrating community
- Discuss that Mary is Mother of the Church
- Know that the Nicene and Apostle Creeds are declarations of our faith
- Know that we receive the Grace of God through the receipt of the Sacraments
- Name the four gospel writers
- Comprehend that the 10 Commandments are the laws by which we form a right conscious
- Explain that the church teaches us to reach out to others
- Practice daily prayer
- Review all previously learned prayers and the 10 Commandments

A student in **SIXTH GRADE** should be able to do the above in addition to:

- Know the Pope's name and identify our local church leaders as bishops, priests, etc.
- Know that Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit
- Understand the role of free will in living
- Find specific passages in the Bible
- Know we are called to be disciples of Jesus
- Affirm that worship belongs to God alone
- Review all previously learned prayers and the 10 Commandments

A student in **SEVENTH or EIGHTH GRADE** should be able to do the above in addition to:

- Recognize the resurrection of Christ as the central vent of the Church
- Recall that the Feast of Pentecost is the birth of the Church
- Recall our involvement in the life, mission and work of the parish community and family
- Know the Nicene Creed
- Explain the Holy Trinity as one God in three persons
- Identify ways in which Jesus is both God and human
- Indentify the major parts of the Mass
- Compare and contrast the Eucharistic celebration to the Last Supper
- Understand the Bible is the inspired Word of God which reveals God, gives knowledge of our faith and contains a personal message for each person
- Identify moral values in the teachings of Christ
- Comprehend the dignity of the human person
- Realize their call to contribute to the growth of the Church
- Understand the importance of prayer
- Experience full participation in the Eucharist

A student in **HIGH SCHOOL** should be able to do the above in addition to:

- Identify different books of the Bible and their role in our faith history
- Understand that the Holy Spirit inspires the Apostle's mission, the Great Commission
- Identify the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching
- Recognize their call to holiness is personal and ever-growing
- Understand the seven Sacraments and how they are celebrated