

## Guidelines for Catechesis of Children Pre-K to Grade 2

### Stages of Development of the Pre-K – Grade 2 Child and Implications for Catechesis

<u>A PRE K – GRADE 2 CHILD</u>	<u>THE CATECHIST</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· is in awe of the power of God . . . is both meditative and contemplative</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· for prayer (prayer table, prayer corner, etc.)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· responds to reward and punishment . . . sees only black and white</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· establishes well-defined class rules with specific rewards and consequences</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· has a strong need for individual security . . . to be loved and to love in return, to grow, to identify, and to listened to</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· provides a stable environment with a consistent physical plant and regular care givers</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· is slowly progressing toward greater bodily stability and emergence of fine motor skills</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· provides hands-on activities where the child learns through doing</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· thinks almost exclusively on concrete ideas. Abstract thinking is practically non-existent.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· provides stories from scripture within their historical and geographical context. Makes Jesus a real person by presenting the geography and lifestyle of his homeland.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· is very physically active and tires easily if kept in one position too long</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· provides a variety of activities that are closely related in theme but different in approach</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· is very imaginative</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· provides opportunities for dramatics, role playing, and learning through play.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· is emerging from being totally self-centered to some awareness of others</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· provides art materials and time for free expression – not just pre-cut crafts</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· is able to see beyond concrete to spiritual . . . has a strong inner sense of the deepest mysteries of faith</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· sits on child's level and steps back from the total ownership of class. Allows child to discover God in his/her own way</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· provides quiet time within class schedule and sets aside environment</li></ul>	

## Word

### Early Childhood/Pre-K to Grade 2

#### REVELATION

- God loves us and want to be in relationship with us.
  - God sent Jesus to teach us bout who God is
  - We can learn more about God through the Bible, God's inspired written word.
  - We also learn about who God is from the Church.
  - We can find signs of who God is in nature.
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#### SCRIPTURE

- The Bible contains information about and teaches us about God
  - God's love for us Jesus, Prayer, Church, Holy Spirit
  - The foundation for the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist.
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#### CREED

- God created all things.
- God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit - Trinity.
- God loves us and all creation.
- Jesus is our savior, friend, brother, the Son of God.
- Jesus is always with us and is present to us in a special way in the sacraments.
- Jesus died for us on the cross and rose to new life.
- Jesus brings us God's forgiveness.
- Jesus gives us himself in the Eucharist.
- Jesus' life was a ministry of service to people in need.
- Through our baptism we are all members of the Church.
- The Holy Spirit is our helper.
- Sin is choosing not to love God and others as we should.
- Mary is the mother of Jesus and a person of faith.
- The saints are models of faith.
- Jesus wants us to be with him always in heaven.

## Worship

### Early Childhood/Pre K - Grade 2

#### SACRAMENTS

- Sacraments remind us that God is with us.
  - Baptism welcomes us into the Church and makes us children of God.
  - In the Eucharist, we are nourished by Jesus.
  - In penance we express sorrow for our sins and celebrate God's forgiveness.
  - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation.
  - Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are the Sacraments of Healing.
  - Matrimony and Holy Orders are the Sacraments of Commitment.
  - The R.C.I.A. is a process through which children and adults become members of the Church.
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#### PRAYER

- Prayer is talking and listening to God.
  - Sometimes we pray in words, in song, in movement, in art or in silence.
  - We can pray by ourselves, and with our friends, family, classmates, or parish family.
  - We pray together when we celebrate the Eucharist and other sacraments.
  - Some formal prayers that all members of the Church hold in common are the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, the Sign of the Cross.
  - We can pray anywhere.
  - Sometimes we choose special places to pray, where we can be comfortable in God's presence.
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#### THE LITURGICAL YEAR

- Sunday is a special day set apart from all the others.
- Advent is a time for waiting and preparing.
- Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus.
- Christmas is a special time for hearing God's message of Good News.
- Lent is a time for prayer, sacrifice, and preparation for Easter.
- The Triduum, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil are the high points of the Church year.
- Easter, the feast and the season, is a time for celebration of Jesus' resurrection.
- The Feast of Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church.

## Community

### Early Childhood/Pre-K to Grade 2

#### **FAITH AND IDENTITY**

- We can always believe and trust in God.
  - Baptism makes us part of the Church - a faith community.
  - We believe in Jesus and know he is always with us.
  - We show our faith in God by loving ourselves and one another.
  - We who love God and others will be with God now and forever
  - The Church is called to be the community - the People of God.
  - The Church is the Body of Christ.
  - The Church is the sacrament of Christ in the world.
  - The Church celebrates the presence and action of Christ in our lives.
  - The Church has a formal structure that involves people, regions and decision making.
  - The Church has a long history, with many major events that shape who the Church is today.
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#### **PERSONAL GROWTH**

- We all have different gifts to share.,
  - Each and every person is unique, lovable and deserving of respect.
  - God has called us to be a part of the Christian family.
  - God created us male and female. We are special in God's eyes.
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#### **RELATIONSHIPS**

- All people are God's children.
  - No two people are exactly alike.
  - God wants us to have friends.
  - We need to love others as Jesus did.
  - God wants us to love and respect all people.
  - Jesus taught us how to be a friend.
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#### **CHURCH**

- The Church is the People of God, which has built special places to gather for worship.
- The Catholic Church is a sacramental Church.
- The Church is the community of Jesus' followers.
- The Church continues Jesus' ministry.
- The Church works for love, justice and peace.
- We (the baptized followers of Jesus) are the Church.

## Discipleship

### Early Childhood/Pre K to Grade 2

#### **JUSTICE AND PEACE**

- God asks us to care about our world and God asks us to care about others, especially those in need.
  - God asks us to forgive others.
  - Jesus taught us how to reach out to people who are suffering or hurt.
  - We are called to be peacemakers.
  - God wants us to love and care for each other and the world.
  - God wants us to treat all people fairly.
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#### **MORALITY**

- Jesus taught us how to care for others and for our world.
  - Sin is choosing not to love God and others as we should.
  - God is merciful and loving.
  - God shows us ways to love others and helps us to live good lives.
  - Jesus asks us to live the law of love
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#### **CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE**

- God gave each of us special gifts and talents.
- God wants us to share our gifts and talents with others.
- Baptism calls us to serve God and others.
- A vocation is an invitation to serve others in a particular way.

## Vocabulary for Children Pre-K to Grade 2

**NB:** These definitions are intended to be simple, user-friendly, and understandable for a child. They may not express an adult theological perspective and are not exhaustive.

\*Denotes expanded definition in the vocabulary for children grades 3-5.

**\*Advent** – the season of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

**Amen** – a word we speak, sing, or shout that means we agree with what has just been said.

**\*Angel** - a messenger from God.

**\*Anointing of the Sick** - a sacrament of healing where the priest rubs the oil of sick on the forehead and hands of the sick and prays for him/her.

**\*Apostle** – one of the twelve close followers of Jesus.

**Annunciation** – in scripture the angel Gabriel asks Mary if she will be the Mother of God.

**Ascension** – the day when we celebrate Jesus’ return to his Father.

**\*Baptism** – a sacrament of welcoming which makes us a child of God and a member of the Church. The symbols are water, oil, light, and the white garment.

**\*Bible (Scripture)** – God’s inspired written word.

**Bishop** – a leader of a diocese

**Candles** – a symbol of the light of Christ; they remind us that Jesus is here with us.

**Catholic** – a word meaning “universal” or “for everyone”

**Chalice** - the cup that holds the wine that will become the Blood of Jesus.

**\*Christmas** – a feast and a season that celebrates the birth of Jesus,

**\*Church** – the family of God’s people; the building where God’s people gather.

**Conscience** – our inner ability to know what is right and wrong.

**Consecration** - the making holy and changing the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

**Contrition** – expressing sorrow for our sins.

**Creator** – God, the Father, who made all things.

**Crucifix** – a cross with an image of the body of Jesus on it.

**Crucifixion** – the way Jesus died on the cross.

**Diocese** – an area in which all the people and parishes are cared for by a bishop.

**\*Easter** – the feast and season that celebrates Jesus’ resurrection and return to God.

**\*Eucharist** – the sacrament of Jesus’ Body and Blood present as bread and wine.

**Examination of Conscience** – a time when we remember the things we have done wrong and think about making our lives better.

**Good Friday** – The Friday before Easter. We remember that Jesus died on the cross for us.

**God, the Father** – the creator and source of all life; the first person of the Trinity.

**\*Gospel** – the “good news” of Jesus Christ written in the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

**Grace** – a gift where God shares his life and love with us.

**God, the Holy Spirit** – the third person of the Trinity sent by Jesus to be with us.

**Host** – the bread that we eat at our celebration of the Eucharist. There this bread is blessed and becomes the Body of Christ.

**\*Jesus Christ** - the Son of God; the second person of the Trinity; our teacher, prophet, savior, and brother.

**Kingdom of God** – the special world God has created for each of us; it is in heaven, on earth, and within each of us.

**Last Supper** – the meal that Jesus shared with his apostles on the night before he died; here he gave us the Eucharist.

**Lectionary** – the book that contains the Scripture readings proclaimed at Mass.

**\*Lent** – a season of preparation before Easter.

**Liturgy** - the way we pray as a community; the way we publicly celebrate Eucharist and the other sacraments.

**Liturgy of the Eucharist** – the second part of the celebration of the Eucharist where we remember, receive, and give thanks for the gift of Jesus' Body and Blood.

**Liturgy of the Word** – the first part of the celebration of the Eucharist where we hear God's Word.

**Mary** – the Mother of Jesus and our best example of faith.

**Mass** – another name for the Eucharist where we hear God's Word and receive his Body and Blood.

**Patén** – the plate that holds the bread that will become the Body of Jesus.

**Penance** – a sacrament of forgiveness. We express sorrow for our sins to God through the Church and celebrate God's forgiveness. The symbol is the blessing with the words of absolution.

**Pentecost** – the birthday of the Church when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles.

**Pope** – the leader of the Catholic Church throughout the world.

**Prayer** – talking and listening to God.

**Priest** – an ordained minister who explains God's Word, celebrates the sacraments, and cares for all God's people.

**Processional Cross** - the cross carried in at the beginning of Mass.

**Reconciliation Room (Confessional)** – the special room where the priest listens to us as we express sorrow for our sins and gives us absolution.

**Resurrection** – Jesus' return to life after his suffering and death. This is his victory over sin and death.

**Saint** – a person who lived as God wanted.

**\*Sacrament** – a sign through which we share in God's Life.

**Sacramentary** - the book containing the prayers for the celebration of the Eucharist.

**Sanctuary** - the space of the church for the altar, the ambo, and the presider's chair.

**Sin** - choosing to do what we know is wrong; choosing not to love God and others as we should.

**Temptation** – the feeling that we want to do something that we know is wrong.

**Trinity** – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

## Prayers for Children Pre-K to Grade 2

The memorization of prayers is primarily the responsibility of the parent. Memorization needs to be linked with usage; children should memorize those prayers which are used most often by the faith community particularly in worship. The following prayers are appropriate for this developmental level. Some wording may vary.

### **Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

### **Our Father**

Our Father who are 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. Amen.

### **Hail Mary**

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

### **Glory be (Doxology)**

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.

### **An Act of Contrition**

#### **Mass Responses:**

“And also with you”

Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)

Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation (Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.)

Amen

**A Blessing before Meals** - traditional or spontaneous

## Liturgical Symbols and Gestures for Children Pre-K to Grade 2

<b>Kneeling</b>	Being on one's knees. A sign of humility.
<b>Genuflecting</b>	Bending one knee to the floor. A sign of respect.
<b>Bowing</b>	Bending one's body from the waist. A sign of respect.
<b>Standing</b>	A sign of attention.
<b>Sitting</b>	A sign of listening.
<b>Processing</b>	A sign of being on a journey and moving to the kingdom of God
<b>Sign of the Cross</b>	Moving your hand from your forehead, to your chest and to both shoulders. A sign that you belong to Jesus.
<b>Baptismal Font</b>	The pool or font containing the water where people are baptized Holy water fountains at the Church entrance also reminds us of baptism.
<b>Altar</b>	The table used for the Eucharist.
<b>Ambo</b>	The stand from which the Scriptures are read and the homily is given.
<b>Presider's Chair</b>	The chair used by the priest leading the service.
<b>Paschal (Easter) Candle</b>	A large candle. The symbol of Jesus, the Light of the World.
<b>Raising arms and hands</b>	A sign of praising God in prayer.

**Giving the Bible a special place and space in the meeting place**

**Reverence and a prayerful attitude in the place of worship**

Some program, such as Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, may exceed these.