

## **Curriculum Guidelines Catholic Diocese of Fargo**

### **Kindergarten**

*Theme:* God is lovingly with me always and everywhere.

### **I. CREED - PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Section one pertains to what God, Our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ His Son by the power of the Holy Spirit has revealed about Himself and His Plan for our salvation and sanctification. The delivery of the Faith begins with the knowledge that God has acted first – He has given all – for no other reason than He loves us.

At the end of Kindergarten, students will demonstrate the following:

1. God is a loving Father who made us and cares for us.  
(CCC 301, 303, 305)
2. Creation is a gift of God. God made everything, all that is seen and unseen.  
(CCC 293-295, 315)
3. God, the Father, sent Jesus, His Son, as our friend. Jesus lived, died and rose for us.  
He gives us new life.  
(CCC 571, 599, 601, 604)
4. We can know God through our relationships with others and through stories about Him.  
(CCC 36, 40, 53-64)
5. Mary is Jesus' mother and our mother.  
Joseph is the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus.  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph are called the Holy Family.  
(CCC 495, 564, 963)
6. Prayer is listening and talking to God. We are called to pray every day.  
(CCC 2559, 2659-2660)
7. The Bible is a special book that tells us about God's love.  
(CCC 104)
8. Jesus teaches us how to love God and love others.  
(CCC 459)

## **II. SACRAMENTS – CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY**

Section two pertains to the way God, Our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ His Son by the power of the Holy Spirit continues to make Himself and His Plan for our salvation and sanctification present today. In the sacraments, God touches us and we touch Him – a touch that wholly changes us – we are freed from sin and become His children, members of the Church, His Family. In the sacraments God acts first – He has given all – for no other reason than He loves us. The reception of the sacraments is one way we say “yes” to God.

At the end of Kindergarten, students will demonstrate the following:

1. We become members of God’s Family through Baptism -- His Children, His Daughter or His Son.  
(CCC 804, 1213, 1267)
2. God wants His Family, the Church to gather each Sunday.  
(CCC 1066-1075)
3. During the Mass, Jesus is with us in a special way.  
(CCC 1373)
4. In the Mass, we remember that Jesus gave His life for our happiness; we take part in His sacrifice whenever we attend Mass.  
(CCC 1364-1365)
5. The Mass is a special meal that Jesus celebrates with His Family.  
(CCC 1329)
6. Be introduced to liturgical gestures (genuflection, kneeling, sign of the cross, handshake of peace, folding hands for prayer).
7. Be introduced to the liturgical calendar through the liturgical colors and celebrating in the classroom.
8. Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus’ birthday and Easter is when we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.

### **III. MORAL DEVELOPMENT – LIFE IN CHRIST**

Section three is our response to God who loved us first. As His children, we desire to live as God has asked. The moral life is not an arbitrary list of rules. Living life as God reveals is living a fully human life.

In Kindergarten, the child should:

1. Have a sense of being loved by the important people in his/her life.
2. Be aware of his/her uniqueness and that he/she is loved by God.
3. Realize that there are right and wrong choices and be able to express “I’m sorry” to those injured by wrong choices (i.e., God, family, classmates, and neighbor).
4. Understand that we must avoid wrong because it is sinful. Sin breaks our relationship with God. Sin breaks our relationship with others.
5. Realize that he/she is responsible for decisions and actions in caring for God’s gifts of creation, especially human life.
6. Be introduced to models of love and service within his/her own community, priests, religious, lay ministers of the parish, as well as traditional examples like the Holy Family and the lives of the saints. They should see how real people love God back.

### **SAINTS - KINDERGARTEN**

1. God wants us all to be saints. Saints are what we call people who are in God’s Family in heaven.
2. Know that God is a Family: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Know that we become part of God’s Family through Baptism.
4. Know that angels are not saints, they are God’s helpers.
5. Know the following new saints:
  - Sts. Joachim and Ann, Mary’s parents and Jesus’ grandparents
  - Archangel Gabriel the one who came to Mary, awaited her “yes” and announced Jesus’ birth
6. Review:
  - Jesus’ first family: Father, Jesus (Son). and the Holy Spirit
  - Jesus’ family on earth began with: Mary, Jesus and Joseph (the Holy Family)

<p><b>Kindergarten Friends</b></p> <p><b>God</b> Father Son (Jesus) Holy Spirit</p> <p><b>Saints</b> Mary Joseph Sts. Joachim and Ann</p> <p><b>Angels</b> Guardian Angel Archangel Gabriel</p>
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## **IV. PRAYER LIFE**

Section four is another way we respond to God who loved us first. As His children, we desire to live as God has asked. In order to know God and His specific plan for our lives, we must take time to pray, that is to talk, listen and be with God and His Family, the Church. Praying is essential for growing as a Child of God in the Family of God. A life without prayer is like a life without breath.

During the Kindergarten year the child should:

1. Know that prayer is listening and talking with God. (CCC 2558)
2. Attend Mass on Sunday and holy days of obligation.
3. The memorization of basic prayers offers an essential support to the life of prayer, yet it is also important to help students savor their meaning. (CCC 2688)  
Children should be able to recite the following:
  - Sign of the Cross
  - Grace Before Meals
  - Angel of God
  - Morning Prayer
  - Night Prayer
  - Our Father
  - Hail Mary
  - Holy, Holy, Holy (from Mass)
  - Words of Prayer: Alleluia; Glory to God; Amen, Thank-you God;  
I love you Jesus; For my family, Lord hear our prayer.
4. Participate in a variety of prayer forms: spontaneous prayer, gesture, song, reflection and silence
5. Experience belonging to family, kindergarten class, etc. as the basis for belonging to Church.
6. Know that the Church is God's Family and the church building is a place to worship as His Family. The priest is the leader of the worship because he acts in the person of Jesus.
7. Know to genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament.
8. Recognize the Lord's Day as a day of prayer, rest and togetherness.

## SCRIPTURE- KINDERGARTEN

Be familiar with passages and stories from Scripture, specifically:

(\*Parents and catechists may cross reference these Scriptures to the CCC by consulting the Index of Citations, provided in the CCC. Such a cross referencing will assist catechists in applying these Scriptures to the points of the curriculum.)

1. The child knows that the Bible is a special book where God speaks to us.
2. Begin to develop a love for God in Sacred Scripture.
3. The child, hearing the stories of Jesus and His life, becomes more and more aware of God's love.

Creation	Gen. 1:1-24, 31
Noah's Ark	Gen. 7:11 - 8:22
Annunciation (Mary's yes)	Lk. 1:26-35
Nativity	Lk 2:1-20
Visit of the Magi	Mt.. 2:1-12
Parables:	
The Mustard Seed	Mt. 13:31-32
The Pearl of Great Price	Mt. 13:45-46
The Leaven	Mt. 13:33
The Found Sheep	Lk. 15:4-10
Good Shepherd	Jn. 10:2-5
Jesus Blesses the Children	Mt 19:13-15
Last Supper	Mk. 14:12-42; Lk. 22:14-20
Death of Jesus	Jn. 19:17-56
Resurrection	Jn. 20:1-31

## **Profile of a Kindergarten Child**

### **Characteristics**

The self-image of a child at this age is delicate, easily altered by people and situations near to him/her. A healthy self-concept is encouraged by positive reinforcement including the fact that God made him/her/everyone and loves him/her/everyone.

The kindergartner is egocentric, absorbed in his/her impressions and sometimes fails to realize that others may not share the same perceptions.

A five-year old needs a strong sense of security and a feeling that he/she is loved and belongs. Improved socialization skills are a goal for the kindergarten year.

The kindergarten child involves his/her body and spirit as well as his/her mind in learning.

This child relates to the concrete, to experiences of his/her everyday life.

This child has a short attention span and needs a variety of activities and approaches to learning.

The kindergarten year provides a time for the child to acquire a sense of initiative, to experience opportunities to affect the world in which he/she lives.

### **Faith Development Needs**

The five-year-old child, in order to develop holistically (spiritually, emotionally, physically, intellectually, socially), needs to be recognized, valued, praised, and accepted for the unique and special person he/she is.

This child needs to feel loved by God and loved and appreciated by others. He/She needs to experience a sense of security and belonging which is essential to growth and healthy expression.

The kindergartner needs to see and experience how to share. He/She needs models from real-life, Scripture, the lives of saints, and especially from familiar adults in his/her life. (Justice, Fortitude) (Moral training)

This child needs to experience a climate in which self-discipline (Moral training) is fostered by giving him/her real responsibilities and allowing him/her to experience that all actions have related consequences, either positive or negative. (Justice, Temperance)

The catechist helps the child to choose the good for its own sake.

The five-year-old learns best by doing rather than listening; he/she needs to participate in activities like role-playing, story telling, singing, and celebrating. (Prudence)

The catechist is encouraged to involve the child in group prayer and related religious activities. He/She can be introduced to brief moments of silence in which to communicate with God, to wonder and to imagine. He/She may describe what God has communicated to them.

SOURCE: Office for Catechetics, Diocese of Sioux Falls, 605-988-3770

## **Implications**

As a prime role model for the children, the catechist needs to develop a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community.

To encourage a positive self-image, the catechist should take opportunities to interact individually with each child recognizing him/her as a unique gift of God.

Children relate readily to symbols and gestures. The catechist can provide religious experiences that involve praising, thanking and celebrating God through various prayer forms.

To develop the sense of belonging to and being responsible for God's creation, the catechist is urged to encourage in the children an awareness of the needs and feelings of others and to see the entire world as a gift. Opportunities to share time, talent, and treasure help children sense being caretakers in God's world.

To cultivate virtue in the children, a catechist needs to know and understand the moral virtues and how they work to balance the natural powers of reason, will, and the senses.

A catechist can guide the child in virtue by presenting situations in which a child learns that he/she has a mind (intellect) to know the good and a will to choose. Good actions help to form good habits (virtues).

SOURCE: Office for Catechetics, Diocese of Sioux Falls, 605-988-3770