



*The Faith That Marks God's People*

# **Guidelines for Catechesis**

Grade One

Archdiocese of New York  
Revised - 2016

Nihil Obstat: Peter Vaccari, S.T.L.

Censor Librorum

Imprimatur: + Gregory Mustaciuolo, Vicar General,  
Archdiocese of New York

Date: June 15, 2015

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May 15, 2016  
Feast of Pentecost  
Year of Mercy

Dear friends in the Lord:

With prayer and confidence in your dedication to the mission of catechesis – to bring everyone closer to Jesus Christ – I promulgate these *Guidelines for Catechesis, Pre-Kindergarten Through Grade Six* in the Catholic school and catechetical programs of the Archdiocese of New York.

This is the third edition of the *Guidelines*. Since they were first promulgated in 1987, the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office and the Office of the Superintendent of Schools found it necessary to revise and update them, particularly in light of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, published in 1995. This update incorporates added scriptural references, protocols on catechesis issued by the bishops of the United States, and the new translation of the *Roman Missal*.

Allow me to thank the leaders of the Guidelines Revision Committee for their efforts: Sr. Joan Curtin, CND, director of the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office and chairperson; Ms. Nancy Doran; Ms. Linda Fitzsimons; Ms. Margaret Hoblin; Sr. Teresita Morse, RJM; Mr. Philip Gorrasi; Ms. Lisette Robustelli; and Ms. Paige Sanchez.

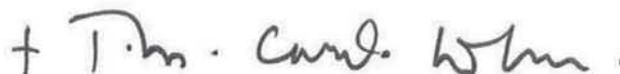
Just a few months after his election, Pope Francis spoke to catechists attending the International Congress on Catechesis in Rome, and thanked them for their commitment. He said:

*Catechesis is a pillar of faith education and we need good catechists! Thank you for your service to the Church and in the Church. Even if at times it may be difficult and require a great deal of work, and although the results are not always what we hope for, teaching the faith is something beautiful! It is perhaps the best legacy we can pass on: the faith! To educate in the faith, to make it grow. To help children, young people and adults to know and love the Lord more and more is one of the most exciting aspects of education. It builds up the Church!*

Permit me to add my own heartfelt thanks. I count on you, your knowledge of and faithfulness to Church teaching, and your pedagogical skills to assist me in sharing the faith that we were given at baptism and enriched by years of living and learning. Hopefully, you know that I could not carry out this sacred duty without you.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim. Carol. Dolan." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York



## ***The Faith That Marks God's People***

**The Faith That Marks God's People** is developed according to the following format in grades one through six:

1. Each grade level is introduced by a statement of the year's doctrinal theme.
2. The pedagogical objective of the year follows the theme statement.
3. The **Guidelines** are to be read across the page, following the delineated bands.

The basic teachings of the faith are contained in the first two columns: "Core Content" and "Christian Living."

The "Core Content" column presents the faith concepts; the "Christian Living" column explains how these concepts are to be lived out by Catholics. The issues of morality, including respect for life and concern for justice and peace, form the substance of this column.

The "Sacred Scripture" column includes several passages in the Old or New Testament where the core content is imaged or taught.

The "Prayer and Worship" column suggests prayer and liturgical experiences for the child.

4. Throughout the Guidelines, from grades one through six, there is a developmental presentation of the major concepts.
5. On the final page of each grade level, there is a listing of vocabulary, prayers, and liturgical symbols and liturgical gestures to be taught. This page also includes the portion of the Creed that is to be taught or reviewed, and prayers to be encouraged.
6. After each entry in the **Guidelines**, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1997*, is cited in support of the concept expressed. These citations are intended to deepen the catechist/teacher's understanding, on an adult level, of the content being taught.

The **Guidelines** are addressed to the catechist/teacher, not to the students. Nonetheless, throughout the **Guidelines**, the language has been kept as simple and straightforward as possible without sacrificing theological and doctrinal accuracy. It is hoped that the language used to present each concept will help the catechist/teacher to teach the concept according to the capacity of the student.

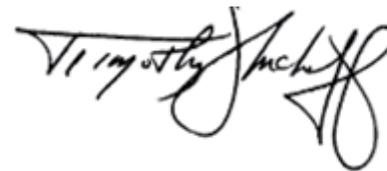
These **Guidelines** are not to be considered a substitute for the textbook. It is recommended that each parish select a single textbook series found to be in conformity with the US. Bishop's Protocol, for use in grades one through six for the school and parish programs, and that these **Guidelines** be used in conjunction with that textbook series. The **Guidelines** have been designed to assist the catechist/teacher in the use of the textbook by providing the essential content to be taught at each grade level.

To implement these **Guidelines** effectively, the catechist/teacher must be committed to give time and talent not only to catechizing others, but also to growing personally in faith and understanding. For this reason, an extensive Archdiocesan **Catechist Formation Program** in all counties of the Archdiocese is offered both online and on site to ensure ongoing theological, spiritual and pedagogical formation of all catechists/teachers.

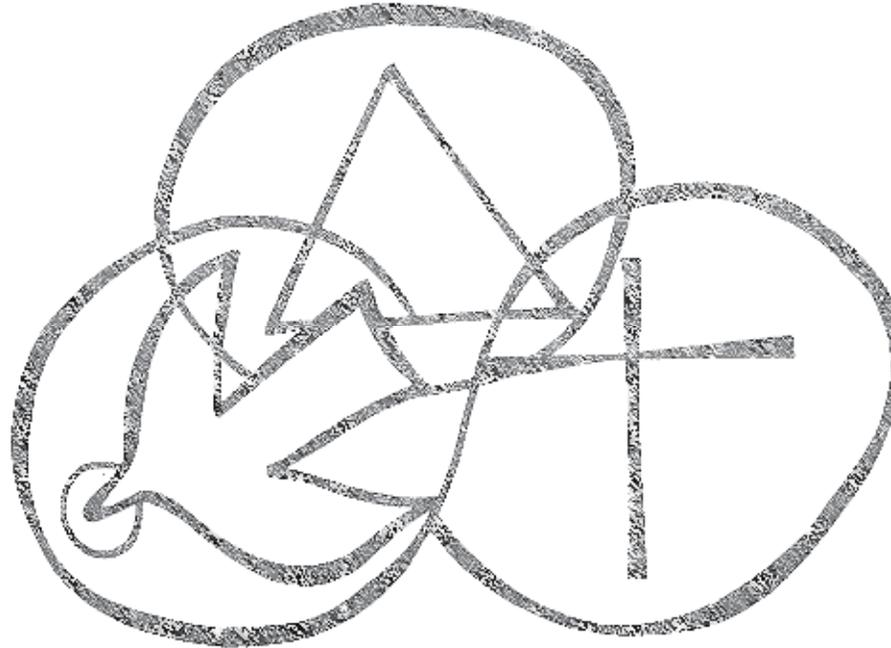
Through this endeavor, it is hoped that the whole Church of New York will continue to grow in the faith that marks God's people.



Sr. Joan Curtin, C.N.D.  
Director, Catechetical Office



Dr. Timothy J. McNiff, Ed. D  
Superintendent of Schools



## **THEME:**

*God is our Father who loves us,  
Jesus is the Son of God who tells us about our Father.  
The Holy Spirit helps us to be holy.*

## **OBJECTIVE:**

To develop an awareness of God the Creator, who gives us life and grace and promises us eternal life through Jesus.

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>God is the Creator who made all things: angels, human persons, the whole world. 290, 326-27, 315, 338</p> <p>God is all loving. 218-21, 278, 301, 733</p> <p>God is all holy. 208-9, 2809, 2812</p> <p>God can do everything. 268-71, 303</p> <p>God is everywhere. 300-01, 2794</p> <p>God knows everything. 216, 283</p> <p>God has always been and always will be. 34, 213</p>	<p>Through prayer and worship we respond with love and gratitude to God. 347, 1083, 2096, 2567, 2569</p> <p>Created in God's image, each person has dignity and value. It is our responsibility to respect life and to care for ourselves, others and all that God has created (stewardship). We are to be respectful of the life, good name, property and possessions of others. 355-58, 1701, 2158, 2258 2319, 2401, 2415, 2477</p>	<p>Creation Genesis 1: 1- 27</p> <p>Guardian Angels Matthew 18:10</p> <p>Attributes of God Lev 11:45 Ps 139:1-18 Ps 102: 26-27 Wisdom 11:23 1 John 4:7-8 Rev 1:8</p>	<p>Have the children learn the first section of the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth." 166-67, 170, 198</p>
<p>We are children of God. God is our Father who made us, loves us, cares for us, and who wants us to be happy with him, on this earth and in heaven. 1, 305, 1024, 1718, 1721, 2782</p> <p>Through the Sacraments Jesus shares God's love and life with us. 1131</p> <p>Through Baptism we become members of the Church, God's family, and receive grace, a sharing in God's life. 751, 1266,-67, 1271, 1279, 1997</p> <p>We are Catholic Christians. 837</p>	<p>We are to be truthful. We do not lie, destroy property, or steal. 2453-54, 2464, 2468, 2470</p> <p>We are called to be members of God's family, to be saints. Saints are people who live God's way. 823, 828, 946, 961, 1695, 1709, 1717, 2013</p>	<p>Trust in Providence Matthew 6:25-34</p> <p>The Grace of Baptism: A New Birth 1 Peter 1 :3-5</p>	<p>Bring the children to church and show them the place for Baptism, the altar area (sanctuary), and the place where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. 1180-86, 1383</p> <p>Have the children learn the sign of the cross. 232, 1234-35, 2157</p> <p>Have the children bless themselves with holy water as a reminder of their baptism. 1668</p> <p>Have the children genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. 1378</p>

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
Jesus, the Son of God, became human like us and loves us. 422-23, 444-45, 478		The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:7-14	Explain that Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas day. 524-525, 1095, 1163, 1168, 1171
Mary is the Mother of Jesus. 495	We look to Mary as a very special woman and our Mother. 963, 967-69, 2679	The Annunciation Luke 1:26-45	Have the children learn the Hail Mary. 435, 2676-77  Encourage devotion to Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother. 971, 1172, 2682  Show the children the rosary. Explain that we use the rosary to pray and meditate with Mary about the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus.  May and October are special months to honor Mary.
Jesus shows us how to live. 459, 520-21	We are to show love and obedience to our parents and those who take care of us, as Jesus did to his parents. 531-33, 2214-17  We are to be like Jesus and to care for others who are in need. We are especially invited by Jesus to be sensitive to the suffering of the poor, to pray for them and to help them. 544, 2443-46, 2448  We grow in virtue by loving God and doing good for others. 1833	The Obedience of Jesus Luke 2:41-52  Jesus' love for us Mark 10:13-16 Luke 4:40 Matthew 14:13-21	Teach the children to pray for other people. 2634-36
Jesus listened to and talked with his Father. 2599  Jesus teaches us how to listen to and talk with God our Father. 2601, 2607  Prayer is listening to and talking with God. 2653, 2659-60	We talk each day with God our Father: - to express our love (adoration), - to ask for forgiveness, and help in our needs (petition), - to pray for the needs of others (intercession), - to thank God (thanksgiving), - to praise God. 2628-29, 2631, 2635, 2638-39	Prayer of Jesus: the Our Father Matthew 6:9-13  God's care for us Ps 46:11	Have the children learn the Our Father. 2759, 2765-66  Foster daily prayer, especially in the morning, in the evening and at mealtimes. 2685, 2698

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>At Mass, we listen to God's Word and pray together as God's family. 104</p> <p>Jesus suffered and died for us and rose from the dead. 571, 609, 638, 1067</p> <p>He brings us God's forgiveness. 615, 623</p>	<p>Because the celebration of the Mass is the best way to worship God, the Catholic community must come together on Sundays and Holy Days to worship God at Mass. 1167, 1193, 1389, 2042-43, 2177, 2643</p> <p>The parish is the center of our worship and of our life in the Christian community. We are to know the name of our parish. 2179</p> <p>To live in peace it is necessary at times to say we are sorry, to forgive and to make up with others. We are all called to be peacemakers in our world. 1434-35, 1716, 1825-26, 2046, 2304, 2839, 2843-45</p>	<p>Communal Life Acts 2:42</p> <p>The Risen Jesus seen by the Apostles John 21:1-14</p>	<p>Encourage the children to participate in Sunday Mass at their parish.</p> <p>Explain that Lent is a season of the liturgical year. It is a time of preparation for the great feast of Easter. 540, 1095, 1168-69, 1438</p>
<p>The Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus to make us holy. 729-30</p> <p>The Holy Spirit helps us to pray. 741, 2652</p>		<p>The Holy Spirit Galatians 4:6</p>	<p>Have the children review the Sign of the Cross and learn, The Glory Be. (Doxology). 232, 2157, 2639</p> <p>Encourage the children to pray in their own words (spontaneous prayer). 2590, 2648, 2652</p>
<p>Sacred Scripture is the Word of God. 103-4, 135</p>	<p>In Sacred Scripture we learn about God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 104, 131, 133</p>	<p>Sacred Scripture: the Word of God Psalm 119:105</p>	<p>Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. Encourage the children to do the same at home. 103-4, 107, 133, 2205, 2691</p>

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

The First Statement of the Apostles' Creed:

“I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.” 198

## WORDS TO BE TAUGHT

Advent 524, 1095  
Amen 1061-62  
Catholic 830, 837  
Christmas 525  
Church 752  
Creator 290

Easter 1169  
Guardian Angel 336  
Lent 1095, 540  
Liturgical Year 1168-71  
Mass 1332, 1407  
Parish 2179

Sacrament 1131  
Sacrament of Baptism 1213  
Sacred Scripture 104,138  
Saint 828, 1717  
Virtue 1833

## LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT

Altar 1182, 1383  
Baptismal Font 1185  
Genuflection 1378  
Holy Water Font 1185

Kneeling  
Lectern (Ambo) 1184  
Sanctuary  
Sanctuary Lamp (changed from Tabernacle Lamp)

Sign of the Cross 2157  
Tabernacle 1183

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 133

Have the children bless themselves with holy water as a reminder of their baptism. 1668

Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199

Have the children genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. 1378

Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community. 2179, 2226

## PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT

Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157  
Our Father 2759  
Hail Mary 2676-77  
The Glory Be (Doxology)

## PRAYERS TO BE ENCOURAGED

Morning and evening prayer 2659, 2685, 2698  
Grace at Meals 2698, 2834  
Spontaneous Prayer 2590, 2659-60

### **\*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.

## TO BE TAUGHT:

### The Apostles' Creed

GRADE ONE

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,

GRADE TWO

and in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

GRADE THREE

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen

Acknowledgments:

References obtained through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Website ([uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org))

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The Act of Contrition is taken from the “Rite of Penance”, © 1974 by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

The Apostles’ Creed is taken from the Roman Missal 2010 (International Commission on English in the Liturgy)

The Glory Be is taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Website ([uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org))

The Protocol for Assessing the Conformity of Catechetical Materials with the Catechism of the Catholic Church was used to guide the revision process.