

Diocese of Allentown, PA  
Religion Curriculum Guidelines

GRADE 3

Priority Topics:

*Church*

*Creed*

*Trinity*

*Sacraments (Basic Knowledge)*

N.B. Numbers in parentheses are citations from **The Catechism of the Catholic Church** unless otherwise noted as Scriptural references.

Words that appear in bold italics within the curriculum objectives are terms introduced for the first time at this level.

**STANDARD: CREED**

**Subtopic: Revelation**

***Cognitive***

***Children will:***

- Define ***faith*** as God's gift that helps us to believe and trust Him **(1814)**
- Recognize Abraham as our father in faith **(59-61) (Gn. 12:1-9)**
- Understand that the Bible is a collection of books that is the Word of God written in human words inspired by the Holy Spirit **(106)**
- Recognize that God reveals himself through creation, Sacred Scripture (Bible), Sacred Tradition and most perfectly through Jesus
- Understand that a ***creed*** is a prayer that tells what we believe **(187)**

***Affective***

***Children will:***

- Develop appreciation of and ability to listen to God's Word

***Behavioral***

***Children will:***

- Pray for an increase in faith
- Pray/recite the Apostles' Creed from memory
- Explore and relate details of Scripture passages for this grade

**Subtopic: Trinity**

**Cognitive**

**Children will:**

- Identify the Trinity as a *mystery of faith* (232, 237)
- Name the three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

**Affective**

**Children will:**

- Grow in acceptance of mysteries of faith

**Behavioral**

**Children will:**

- Make the Sign of the Cross reverently

**Subtopic: God the Father**

**Cognitive**

**Children will:**

- Acknowledge that human beings are made in God's image and likeness, created with a body and a soul (spirit) (1700-1705) (Gn. 1:26-27)
- Recognize that God is almighty

***Affective***

***Children will:***

- Grow in reverence for life, especially human life
- Grow in reverence for the power and majesty of God

***Behavioral***

***Children will:***

- Demonstrate respect for other human beings and themselves
- Honor the Almighty God in prayer of adoration

**Subtopic: Jesus, the Son of God who became man**

***Cognitive***

***Children will:***

- Grow in knowledge of Jesus' mission and ministry
- Recognize that Jesus taught about God the Father and God the Spirit through His words and actions
- Know that the main events of the suffering, death, resurrection and ***ascension*** of Jesus i.e. the ***Paschal Mystery***, are the source of our salvation **(571)**
- Become familiar with the term, "***Paschal Mystery***"
- Know that Jesus used ***parables*** to teach about God **(546)**
- Become familiar with the importance of adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and the Rites of Eucharistic worship outside of Mass (especially benediction).

***Affective***

***Children will:***

- Be awakened to the call of discipleship
- Desire to hear and understand Jesus' teachings
- Grow in appreciation of their participation in the sacrifice of Christ in the celebration of Eucharist
- Develop gratitude for Jesus as our Savior

***Behavioral***

***Children will:***

- Be followers of Jesus and continue His work by helping other
- Participate in the Eucharist by praying, listening and singing
- Explore and relate details of Jesus' parables (e.g., the lost sheep, the Good Samaritan) (**Lk. 15; Mt. 13**)
- Offer prayers of thanks to Jesus our Savior
- Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

<p><b>Subtopic: Holy Spirit</b></p>
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***Cognitive***

***Children will:***

- Become familiar with the story of Pentecost (**Acts 2:1-41**)
- Understand the Holy Spirit unites us as a community of Christians, called the Church, and guides us to continue Jesus' work (**813**)

***Affective***

***Children will:***

- Desire to use the Holy Spirit's power in their lives

***Behavioral***

***Children will:***

- Pray to the Holy Spirit to guide them
- Write original prayers to the Holy Spirit
- Tell the story of Pentecost

**Subtopic: The Church**

**Cognitive**

**Children will:**

- Recognize the apostles as Jesus' first followers and the first leaders of the Church **(857)**
- Recognize that the Pope, bishops, and pastors lead the Church today with the Holy Spirit's guidance and help **(857)**
- Recognize that through Baptism, we are the Church, helping to build God's Kingdom

**Affective**

**Children will:**

- Develop respect for those in positions of authority in the Church
- Appreciate the gifts of many people who serve in the Church
- Develop attitudes of acceptance and welcome in the Church to others

**Behavioral**

**Children will:**

- Pray for Church leaders and all Church members
- Name the current pope, bishop of their diocese, and pastor and priests of their parish
- Share their gifts to help the Church
- Demonstrate a spirit of welcome to others
- Continue caring for God's people by participating in the missionary activity of the Church (i.e., supporting the missions through prayer, sacrifices, good deeds and donations) **(854, 1942) (Mt. 25:31-46,; Mt. 28:18-20)**

**Subtopic: The Communion of Saints**

**Cognitive**

**Children will:**

- Recognize Mary's place in the Church as mother of all Christians and Queen of All saints (829, 963)
- Understand that the saints are our role models for Christian living (828)

**Affective**

**Children will:**

- Desire to imitate Mary as a model of faith

**Behavioral**

**Children will:**

- Listen to stories about and retell facts about the lives of various saints
- Pray to Mary as our heavenly mother
- Pray to a favorite saint

**Subtopic: Grace, Sin and Forgiveness**

**Cognitive**

**Children will:**

- Know that God's grace helps us to follow God's laws
- Know that the sin of Adam and Eve is called **original sin (389-390) (Gn. 3)**
- Recognize that Jesus' death and resurrection is the source of our salvation (388-389)

***Affective***

***Children will:***

- Desire to grow in grace
- Develop love and gratitude for Jesus' sacrificial death
- Understand and appreciate the need to forgive and be forgiven

***Behavioral***

***Children will:***

- Demonstrate efforts to use God's grace to follow His laws
- Relate experiences of forgiveness in their lives

<p><b>Subtopic: Life Everlasting</b></p>
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***Cognitive***

***Children will:***

- Know that people who die in God's friendship live forever in God's presence (1022)

***Affective***

***Children will:-***

- Desire to grow in friendship with God

***Behavioral***

***Children will:***

- Pray for the living and the dead

**STANDARD: SACRAMENTS**

***Cognitive***

***Children will:***

- Know how to choose between right and wrong
- Deepen their knowledge of how Christians care and comfort others
- Know that God shares His love with us and others **(219-221) (Jn. 3:16; 1 John 4:7-9)**
- Recognize that family life is a gift from God **(2220, 2232) (Mt. 12:47-50)**
- Recognize that family members share and help one another **(1655-58, 2208, 2219)**
- Know that we celebrate God's healing love in the Sacraments of Penance and Anointing of the Sick **(1520) (Ps. 40:2-4, 9-10)**
- Become familiar with the words and actions of Jesus and their relationship to the Sacraments **(1084, 1118-1119)**
- Know the categories of the Sacraments (Initiation, Healing, and Service) **1212, 1421, 1534)**
- Know what each Sacrament celebrates in the lives of believers
- Understand that the love between a husband and wife is a gift from God celebrated and strengthened in the Sacrament of Matrimony
- Understand that through the Sacraments of Healing, Penance and Anointing of the Sick, we are forgiven, strengthened, and comforted as members of the Church
- Understand that the Church guides us in following Jesus, giving us leaders in the Sacrament of Holy Orders
- Become familiar with the work of the Apostles, and their successors, the Pope, bishops, priests and deacons **(858-862, 1548-1549) (Acts 1:21-22; Acts 2:17-19; John 20:21)**

***Affective***

***Children will:***

- Understand that family is a gift from God
- Desire to be good family members
- Desire to grow in compassion for others
- Grow in appreciation and gratitude for God's gift of the Sacraments
- Appreciate the role of the Holy Spirit in our life and in the life of the Church

***Behavioral***

***Children will:***

- Experience God's love within the family and Church community
- Learn to live as family, both at home and in God's family, the Church
- Experience and share care and compassion (e.g., being kind to classmates)
- Experience walking in Jesus' footsteps (e.g., forgiving people who hurt them)
- Experience Jesus' forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance
- Share their experiences of celebrations of Sacraments
- Renew their efforts to be more loving and compassionate to the sick, the elderly, and the dying (e.g., making cards for homebound parishioners, talking to their grandparents)
- List the names of the Pope, their bishop, their pastor(s), parish priests and deacons
- List the seven Sacraments
- List the seven Sacraments by category

**STANDARD: MORALITY**

***Cognitive***

***Children will:***

- Know that we are created in God's image **(41) (Gn. 1:26-27)**
- Know that God made us to know Him, love Him, and serve Him
- Understand that the first three Commandments help us to know and love God
- Know the Ten Commandments and be familiar with their meanings **(517, 522, 529, 543, 558, 575, 589, 600, 605, 611)**
- Know that God's gifts of ***faith, hope, and love*** help us to live a good moral life **(1813)**
- Know that Jesus teaches us to love and forgive our neighbors **(Mat. 18:21-35)**
- Learn that Jesus calls Christians to be the lights of the world **(Mat. 5:14-16)**
- Be introduced to the Corporal Works of Mercy **(Mt. 25:31-45)**
- Become familiar with the Beatitudes **(Mat. 5:3-10)**
- Recognize that we are called to celebrate Eucharist with the Catholic community every Lord's Day and ***Holy Day of Obligation*** **(2177)**

***Affective***

***Children will:***

- Desire to show respect, love and forgiveness to all
- Understand that our actions and choices affect others
- Help one another grow in faith, hope and love
- Appreciate the Corporal works of Mercy as ways of serving God
- Appreciate the Beatitudes as ways of following Jesus

***Behavioral***

***Children will:***

- Live the Greatest Commandment: to love God above all others, and to love others as they love themselves **(2055) (Mt. 22:36-40; Mk. 12:28-31)**
- Live the Commandments
- Recite the first three Commandments from memory
- Show respect, love and forgiveness to all
- Demonstrate making good choices in everyday experiences
- Demonstrate being sorry
- Live the Corporal Works of Mercy by participating in outreach
- Live the virtues of faith, hope and love
- Break open the word (Discuss the Sunday gospels using the questions “What does this tell me about God?” and “What does God want me to do?”)

**STANDARD: PRAYER**

***Cognitive***

***Children will:***

- Know the two forms of liturgical prayer – the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours (**1073, 1174, 1340**)
- Know that ***aspirations*** are short spontaneous prayers to God
- Know the forms of prayer including: ***blessing, adoration, petition (intercession), contrition, thanksgiving*** and ***praise*** (**2644**)
- Know that the ***Apostles' Creed*** tells us what the Church believes (**186**)
- Know that the Holy Spirit helps us to pray (**Romans 8:26**)

***Affective***

***Children will:***

- Associate praying with establishing a living relationship with the Blessed Trinity
- Value time spent in prayer
- Appreciate the power of intercessory prayer and become comfortable in vocalizing their prayers
- Grow in appreciation for prayer as an essential way of developing our relationship with God
- Appreciate God's love expressed in listening to our prayers and pray to God for their needs

***Behavioral***

***Children will:***

- Recite from memory the prayers for this grade level
- Participate in some form of the Liturgy of the Hours
- Write personal prayers incorporating the various forms of prayer

- Identify the forms of prayer present in the Mass
- Pray some common aspirations:
  - My Lord and my God (at the consecration)
  - My Jesus mercy (at the consecration)
  - Jesus, Mary, Joseph, pray for us
- Experience a variety of prayer forms, including but not limited to: silence, listening, song, gestures, spontaneous petitions, prayers of thanksgiving, ritual prayer **(2700, 2704, 2709-2719, 2721-24)**  
**(Ps. 10, 12, 28, 31, 34)**
- Become familiar with the Divine Praises
- Pray the Way of the Cross during Lent
- Pray the rosary (usually a decade at a time)
- Pray for their needs and the needs of others

## VOCABULARY

Absolution	Exposition	Paschal Mystery
Adoration	Faith	Pastor
Apostle	Forms of Prayer	Penitential Rite
Apostles' Creed	Good Confession	Pentecost
Ascension	Grace	Petition
Aspirations	Holy Day of Obligation	Pope
Benediction	Hope	Praise
Bishop	Intercession	Reposition
Blessed Sacrament	Liturgy	Salvation
Blessing	Love	Sin
Church (community of believers)	Monstrance	State of Grace
Contrition	Mystery of faith	Thanksgiving
Creed	Original Sin	Trinity
Eucharistic Prayer	Parable	Virtue
	Paraclete	

## PERSONS OF FAITH

Pope (Name of current pontiff)	St. Therese of Lisieux
St. Peter	St. Patrick
The Apostles	St. Francis of Assisi
St. Vincent de Paul	St. Anthony of Padua

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES/STORIES (with which children should become familiar)

**Genesis 12: 1-9**  
*(Abraham)*

**Lk. 15, Mt. 13**  
*(parables)*

**Luke 22-24**  
*(Events of the Paschal Mystery) (refer to other Gospel accounts of  
these events as well)*

**Acts 2:1-41**

*(Pentecost)*

**Matthew 5:3-10**

*(Beatitudes)*

**Matthew 25: 31-44**

*(Origin of the Corporal Works of Mercy)*

**PRAYERS TO KNOW**

*Review prayers from previous levels*

*Apostles' Creed*

*Aspirations (e.g., My Lord and my God; Jesus have mercy on us;)*

*Divine Praises*

**MEMORIZATION**

Names of the Seven Sacraments and their Categories

First Three Sacraments