

Diocese of Allentown, PA
Religion Curriculum Guidelines

GRADE 4

Priority Topics:

The Holy Spirit

Basic Morality:

Commandments

Beatitudes

The Greatest Commandment

The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

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:

- Identify Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition as the two main sources of our Catholic faith **(80)**
- Know that God reveals Himself through our human experience, through creation and fully through the living Gospel, which is Jesus Christ, whom we know through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, as lived and handed on by the Church. **(50-79)**

Affective

Children will:

- Desire to increase their knowledge and understanding of God's revelation

Behavioral

Children will:

- Name ways God reveals Himself and identify examples of God's Revelation in human experience, in creation, in the lives of people in the Bible and in Jesus. Show how the Church hands this on through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
- Name the two major divisions of the Bible: the Old Testament and the New Testament
- Explore and relate details of Scripture passages for this grade level

Subtopic: Trinity

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that the Trinity is the central ***mystery of faith (234)***
- Develop understanding that the Trinity loves us unconditionally **(218)**

Affective

Children will:

- Appreciate Christian community as a reflection of the Trinity (i.e., when Christians live in love and harmony with others, we are reflecting the Trinity)
- Experience gratitude for the Trinity's unconditional love

Behavioral

Children will:

- Participate in the Christian community in worship and service

Subtopic: God the Father

Cognitive

Children will:

- Acknowledge that, made in God's image and likeness, each person has an immortal soul (that will live forever) **(1700-1705)**
- Know that each person has a **free will**

Affective

Children will:

- Desire to use free will to make good choices
- Respect the free will of each person

Behavioral

Children will:

- Demonstrate respect for others because each person is made in God's image and likeness

Subtopic: Jesus, the Son of God who became man

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know the main events of the **Paschal Mystery** and the days when Catholics celebrate these events **(1168-1169)**
- Identify the **Incarnation** the mystery of God becoming man in Jesus **(461, 464)**
- Identify the **miracles** of Jesus as signs of the Kingdom of God **(548)**
- Recognize that Jesus' teachings of the **Beatitudes** and the **Greatest Commandment** show us how to live for the sake of the Kingdom of God **(1716-1718) (Mt. 5:3-10; Lk. 10:27)**

Affective

Children will:

- Grow in appreciation of Jesus' saving love for us
- Desire to put the Beatitudes and the Greatest Commandment into practice (**Mt. 5:3-10; Lk. 10:27**)

Behavioral

Children will:

- Recite the Beatitudes and the Greatest Commandment from memory
- Identify ways of living out the Beatitudes and Greatest Commandment (**Mt. 5:3-10, Lk. 10:27**)

Subtopic: Holy Spirit

Cognitive

Children will:

- Understand that the Holy Spirit is present and active in human history and directs the Church in teaching and guiding the People of God (**737-741**)
- Know the story of Pentecost (**Acts 2:1-42**)
- Know that they receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism and that the Spirit's presence is strengthened in people in Confirmation (**1226, 1265, 1288**)

Affective

Children will:

- Grow in recognition of the Holy Spirit at work in the world, in the Church, and in our lives, helping us to live as followers of Jesus

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray to the Holy Spirit for the grace to follow Jesus' teachings
- Relate details of the story of Pentecost
- Identify ways the Holy Spirit is at work in their lives, helping them to live out their Baptismal call to be holy
- Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit from memory

<p>Subtopic: The Church</p>

Cognitive

Children will:

- Become familiar with the two main creeds of the Church: Apostles' and Nicene **(194-195)**
- Understand that the Church is the People of God whose destiny is the Kingdom, already begun by God in Jesus and to be brought to perfection by God at the end of time. **(781-782)**
- Know that the birthday of the Church is Pentecost **(1076)**

Affective

Children will:

- Experience oneness in faith while reciting the Creed

Behavioral

Children will:

- Do acts of kindness to accept the gift of the kingdom and dwell within it.
- 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:

- Know the members of the communion of saints: the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory, and the baptized Christians on earth **(962)**
- Know that Mary is the Queen of All saints and the perfect model of holiness **(2030)**
- Recognize their Baptismal call into the communion of saints

Affective

Children will:

- Grow in devotion to Mary and desire to imitate her by using the gift of free will to make wise choices
- Be grateful for our unity in the communion of saints and desire to learn more about the saints who are our role models and heroes of faith
- Grow in desire to live out their Baptismal call to holiness

Behavioral

Children will:

- Listen to stories about and retell facts about the lives of various saints
- Pray for the souls in purgatory
- Pray to the saints, asking them to intercede for us
- Name the major feasts of Mary, their dates, and what they celebrate: *Immaculate Conception (December 8), Annunciation (March 25), *Assumption (August 15), *Mary, Mother of God (January 1) *Holy Day of Obligation
- Memorize the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary
- Demonstrate and identify ways they can live out their Baptismal call

Subtopic: Grace, Sin and Forgiveness

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that God's forgiveness is offered to all and He has given us free will to accept His forgiveness **(982)**
- Know that we accept God's forgiveness by: asking forgiveness for our sins; forgiving others; and following God's laws of love (i.e., the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, Jesus' Greatest Commandment)
- Acknowledge that the Holy spirit is the source of grace **(2003)**

Affective

Children will:

- Experience gratitude for God's forgiving love

Behavioral

Children will:

- Ask for God's forgiveness by praying the Our Father and the Act of Contrition and celebrating the Sacrament of Penance
- Use the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes to examine their consciences
- Demonstrate a willingness to forgive others
- Ask the Holy Spirit's help in forgiving others and following God's laws of love

Subtopic: Life Everlasting

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that God invites all to eternal life, and that we accept this invitation by believing in Jesus and following His teachings **(1021-1022)**
- Grow in understanding that ***heaven*** is to be with God eternally **(1025)**
- Recognize that ***purgatory*** is a final purification for those who die in God's grace and friendship so they may achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven **(1030-1031)**
- Understand that ***hell*** is eternal separation from God in whom alone human beings can have the happiness for which they were created **(1057)**

Affective

Children will:

- Desire to accept God's invitation to eternal life

Behavioral

Children will:

- Identify the teachings of Jesus and ways we can live them
- Pray for the souls in purgatory

STANDARD: SACRAMENTS

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that God loves us
- Know how to choose between right and wrong
- Know that Christians are called to 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)**
- Know the categories of the Sacraments (Initiation, Healing, and Service)
- Identify the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist **(1275)**
- Recognize that in Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit and are called to live as followers of Jesus (i.e., our Baptismal call to holiness)
- Recognize that in Confirmation the Holy Spirit strengthens us to live out our Baptismal call
- Know that Confirmation is considered the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit
- Know that we receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism, and that same Holy Spirit is strengthened in us at Confirmation **(1316)**
- Know that the Eucharist gives us strength in our daily living as Christians **(1324)**
- Understand that through the Sacrament of Penance we are forgiven, strengthened, and comforted as members of the Church
- 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 work of the Apostles, the Pope, bishops, priests and deacons **(858-862, 1548-49) (Acts 1:21-22; Acts 2:17-19; John 20:21)**

Affective

Children will:

- Appreciate that family is a gift from God
- Appreciate that family members share and help one another
- Desire to grow in compassion
- Grow in gratitude for the Sacrament of Penance in which through God's grace we reform our lives and receive forgiveness for our sins. Desire to celebrate this Sacrament frequently
- Appreciate that, through Holy Orders, the priest is given the power to absolve sins in Jesus' name
- Appreciate the power of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments, strengthening us to live God's law of love, making us holy, and helping us to experience God's love
- Desire to participate in Mass weekly and receive Holy Communion

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., forgiving others)
- Experience walking in Jesus' footsteps (e.g., being welcoming to all)
- 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) and parish priests
- List the seven Sacraments
- List the seven Sacraments by category

STANDARD: MORALITY

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that **conscience** is a gift from God that helps us to know right from wrong (1776)
- Know that **conscience formation** is a lifelong process of learning to know and choose the good that God desires for us (1777, 1784) (Dt. 30:16)
- Recognize that conscience is formed by the teachings of Jesus and the church (in particular the Ten Commandments, the Greatest Commandment, the Beatitudes, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy) and the Holy spirit (1783-1785)
- Know that **virtues** are good qualities or habits of goodness (1803, 1833)
- Know that the theological virtues are faith, hope and love (1813)
- Recognize that **original sin**, the sin of Adam and Eve, hurt our relationship with God (390)
- Recognize **actual sin: venial and mortal sin** (1854-1864)
- Know that God gave us the Ten Commandments as a path of life that leads us to true happiness, goodness and peace on earth and in heaven (2057)
- Know that the **Beatitudes** are teachings of Jesus that are guides for living as His followers (1716-1717) (Mt. 5:3-10)
- Become familiar with the **Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy** (2447)
- Know that all human life is sacred (2258)
- Grow in understanding of what each of the Ten Commandments commands and forbids (517, 522, 529, 543, 558, 575, 589, 600, 605, 611)
- Understand that the spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy enable us to share the love of Jesus with others

Affective

Children will:

- Desire to grow in the theological virtues
- Desire to live the Beatitudes, Ten Commandments, Jesus' Greatest Commandment, and to follow their consciences
- Appreciate that the Beatitudes and Ten Commandments help us live in love for and with God and others
- Grow in respect for all life
- Understand that the Eucharist strengthens us to grow in love and goodness

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)**
- Demonstrate knowledge of concrete ways to live Jesus' Greatest Commandment **(2055) (Lk. 10:27)**

Celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

- Make a weekly examination of conscience using the Ten Commandments
- Celebrate Holy Eucharist, frequently, at least every Lord's Day and Holy Day of Obligation
- Break open the Word (Discuss the Sunday Gospels using the questions "What does this tell me about God?" "What does God now want me to do?")
- Give examples of practicing the Beatitudes in daily life
- Experience and practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (e.g., participate in food and clothing drives, share food with others, pray for the unborn and elderly, etc.)
- Recite from memory: The Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, Jesus' Greatest Commandment

STANDARD: PRAYER

Cognitive

Children will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the 10 Commandments as a basis for examination of conscience **(2064, 2057, 1962, 1548-49)**
- Recognize that we pray orally or sing at Mass to praise God **(1359, 1361)**
- Become familiar with the saints' lives which are examples of the living tradition of prayer **(2683)**
- Know the Act of Faith **(1816, 2662)**
- Know the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary **(1674)**
- Recognize that they can pray to the Holy Spirit to guide their consciences

Affective

Children will:

- Thank God when they succeed and ask for forgiveness when they fail
- Appreciate and desire the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives
- Experience and grow in appreciation for some of the prayers associated with Mary – the rosary, the Angelus, the Magnificat
- Appreciate the power of intercessory prayer and become comfortable with vocalizing their prayers
- Grow in appreciation for prayer as an essential way of developing our relationship with God

Behavioral

Children will:

- Recite from memory the prayers for this level
- Pray to the Holy Spirit to guide their consciences **(687, 2670-72, 2744)**
- Reflect each evening on how they have lived as Christians that day, i.e., practice a daily examination of conscience **(2064, 2057, 1962, 1548-49)**
- Pray the Stations of the Cross
- Pray the Rosary

- Experience a variety of prayer forms, including but not limited to: silence, listening, song, gestures, spontaneous petitions, prayers of thanksgiving, ritual prayer **(2700, 2704, 2709-19, 2721-24) (Ps. 10, 12, 28, 31, 34)**
- Meditate on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary **(1674)**
- Pray for their needs and the needs of others

VOCABULARY

Actual Sin	Heaven	Revelation
Angelus	Hell	Sacred Scripture
Beatitudes	Immaculate Conception	Sacred Tradition
Communion of Saints	Incarnation	Spiritual Works of Mercy
Conscience	Joyful Mysteries	Theological Virtues
Corporal Works of Mercy	Kingdom of God	Venial Sin
Creed (Nicene)	Magnificat	Virtue
Faith	Mortal Sin	Way of the Cross
Free Will	Mystery of faith	Worship
Grace	Paschal Mystery	
	Purgatory	

PERSONS OF FAITH

Moses	St. Elizabeth of Hungary
Aaron	St. Katharine Drexel
Blessed Teresa of Calcutta	St. Peter Claver
St. Bernadette	St. Francis of Assisi
St. Vincent de Paul	

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

Exodus 20: 1-17

(The Ten Commandments)

Luke 22-24

(Events of the Paschal Mystery) (refer to other Gospel accounts of these events as well)

Matthew 5:3-10

(Beatitudes)

Luke 10:27; Mt. 22:36-40; Mk. 12:28-31)

(Greatest Commandment)

Mat. 25:31-44

(Origin of the Corporal Works of Mercy)

Mk. 4:35-41; Mk. 5:1-20; Mk. 6:34-52; Matt. 14; Lk. 5:1-26

(Miracle accounts)

PRAYERS TO KNOW

Review prayers from previous levels

Act of Faith

*Angelus (Regina Caeli during
Easter season)*

*Fatima Prayer: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the
fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in
need of thy mercy."*

~~Prayer to the Holy Spirit~~

Hail Holy queen

Rosary - Joyful Mysteries

MEMORIZATION

Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

Ten Commandments

Beatitudes

Jesus' Greatest Commandment