

Diocese of Allentown, PA
Religion Curriculum Guidelines

GRADE 6

Priority Topics:

Old Testament

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:

- Know that God reveals Himself through Sacred Scripture and Tradition **(80-83)**
- Understand that the Church is entrusted with the transmission and Interpretation of Revelation **(82)**
- Review that **Revelation** is God's gift of Himself to us and all that God has taught us about Himself and His plan for His people **(50-51)**
- Understand that the Bible is a collection of books inspired by God of varying literary forms **(81, 120-130)**
- Explain **inspiration** as God's action in directing the human authors and editors of the Bible **(106)**
- Recognize the Bible as a faith account of salvation history **(128-129)**
- Recognize the four major prophets of the Old Testament: Elijah, Ezekiel, Isaiah and Jeremiah
- Become familiar with significant stories, events and persons of salvation history found in the Old Testament: Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Aaron, Samuel, David
- Recognize **Psalms** as prayer-songs of the ancient Israelites that we and the Jewish people continue to pray today
- Recognize **proverbs** as ancient wisdom sayings that guide us in holiness
- Become familiar with stories in the **Hebrew Scriptures** (Old Testament) that reflect the call to faith: Abraham, Moses, Jeremiah, etc.
- Understand the Old Testament as the revelation of God's saving love in the history of a people, a revelation fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ **(128)**
- Recognize that humanity's understanding of God developed as God revealed Himself gradually as recorded in the Scriptures
- Differentiate between the faith teachings of Sacred Scripture and scientific, historical fact

- Become familiar with various literary types found in the Old Testament, in particular: **myth** (faith story used to teach a religious truth), law, wisdom, prophetic, history
- Recognize that the first five books of the Bible are called the **Torah** or **Pentateuch**

Affective

Children will:

- Develop reverence and understanding for the Bible as the inspired Word of God
- Appreciate Sacred Scripture as a guide for living (**2 Timothy 3:15-17**)
- Be grateful for God's love given through Revelation
- Desire to read and become familiar with the Bible
- Appreciate Sacred Scripture as a faith document that contains a variety of literary types.
- Develop reverence for our ancestors in faith

Behavioral

Children will:

- Explore and relate details of Scripture passages for this grade-level
- Demonstrate comfort with using the Bible and become adept at finding passages in the Bible
- Be able to use Sacred Scripture in prayer
- Define a **prophet** as a person called by God to speak or write His word to others
- Read and discuss excerpts from the prophecies of the four major prophets
- Define **salvation history** (the story of God's love that shows how He carried out His plan to save all people)
- Identify the first five books of the Bible as the Pentateuch or Torah
- Name the major categories of books of the Old Testament: Pentateuch, history, wisdom, prophecy
- Relate details of stories and significant events in salvation history from the Old Testament, including the fall of Adam and Eve, Noah and the flood, the call of Abraham, Moses and the Exodus, the story of King David
- Pray the psalms and discuss meanings of some Old Testament proverbs (Refer to listing at end of guidelines for this grade level)

Subtopic: Trinity

Cognitive

Children will:

- Understand that the Trinity is the central mystery of faith **(234)**
(Jn. 3:31-36)
- Know that the Father, Son and Spirit accompany us on our journey toward salvation
- Recognize the role of each person of the Trinity in the work of creation. **(290-292)**

Affective

Children will:

- Desire to grow in relationship with the persons of the Blessed Trinity

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray to the persons of the Trinity in an appropriate manner (e.g., praying to God the Creator in praise of creation, to the Holy spirit for wisdom and guidance)
- Recognize and name signs of God's presence in their lives

Subtopic: God the Father

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that God made a covenant with His Chosen People, the Jewish people (**Genesis 12-18**)
- Understand that the Jewish people are our ancestors in faith
- Understand that a **covenant** is a sacred promise between an individual person or a group and God
- Know that God created all things to communicate His glory (**293**)
- Become familiar with the order (hierarchy) of creation (i.e., God created things from highest to lowest: (angels, human life, animal life, plant life, nonliving things) **325-344**) (**Genesis 1 & 2**)
- Understand **stewardship** as humans' sacred responsibility of caring for God's creation (**2415-2418**)

Affective

Children will:

- Grow in appreciation and respect for God's creation
- Grow in a desire to fulfill their responsibility to be stewards of God's creation
- Appreciate the values of keeping promises and being loyal
- Desire to be faithful to our covenant with God
- Develop understanding of our Jewish roots and appreciation for our relationship with the Jews as mutual sons and daughters of Abraham and Sarah

Behavioral

Children will:

- Tell others about God and show His love to others
- Be able to keep a promise
- Practice good stewardship for God's creation, especially in caring for other human beings
- Explain how various elements of creation reveal God's glory
- Differentiate between angels and human beings as two distinct creations of God

- Explain elements of social justice involved in stewardship of creation

Subtopic: Jesus, the Son of God who became man

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that Jesus fulfills the covenant of Abraham and makes a new covenant with us **(610-611)**
- Understand that the Paschal Mystery is the fulfillment of God's covenant, the new Passover **(608)**
- Know that, at Baptism, we are anointed to continue Jesus' mission as priest, prophet, and king **(783-785)**
- Review the definition of the Paschal Mystery: the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus **(571)**

Affective

Children will:

- Realize that we are a part of salvation history
- Desire to live out their Baptismal call to be priest, prophet and king
- Grow in appreciation for Jesus' saving action in the Paschal Mystery

Behavioral

Children will:

- Be able to forgive others and themselves
- Define the role of priest, prophet and king in living out one's Baptismal call **(783-785)**
- Relate events and symbols of the Exodus and Passover to Jesus' Paschal Mystery

Subtopic: Holy Spirit

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know the story of Pentecost (**Acts 2:1-12**)
- Know the term **Paraclete** (helper, literally, “he who is called to one’s side”) as a name for the Holy Spirit (**692**)
- Recognize that the power of the Holy Spirit is present in the creation of the world, in inspiring God’s chosen people, and in the Old Testament prophets (**703-704, 707**)
- Acknowledge that the Holy Spirit’s inspiration guided the writers and editors of Sacred Scripture (**105-106**)

Affective

Children will:

- Appreciate the creative power of the Holy Spirit present throughout salvation history
- Experience gratitude for and develop their desire to cooperate with the Holy Spirit’s action and inspiration in their lives

Behavioral

Children will:

- Share examples of the Holy Spirit working in their lives and in the lives of others (Old Testament heroes, saints, family members, living Christians)
- Retell the story of Pentecost and recognize it as the beginning of the Church (**Acts 2**)

Subtopic: The Church

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that the Church continues to reveal God's presence on earth and carries out God's plan of salvation for all people **(767)**
- Know that the mission of the Church is to continue Christ's saving work **(2 Cor. 5:20-6:2) (768)**

Affective

Children will:

- Become welcoming to others as members of the universal Church
- Appreciate community life **(1 Cor. 12:12-31)**
- Develop a sense of responsibility for their roles in salvation history as members of the Church

Behavioral

Children will:

- Continue caring for God's people by participating in the missionary activity of the Church by participating in the Holy Childhood Association and responding to the needs of those afflicted by natural disasters, etc.
- Carry out the mission of the Church as individual members, ~~sharing Christ's love with others by caring actions and reaching~~ out to those in need in daily life (e.g., praying for others, encouraging and supporting their peers in goodness, etc.)

<p>Subtopic: The Communion of Saints</p>

Cognitive

Children will:

- Understand that as members of the Church we are members of the Communion of Saints **(946)**
- Expand their understanding of the Communion of the Saints to include Old Testament heroes who were faithful to God **(961)**
- Review the members of the communion of saints, i.e., the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory, and the baptized on earth **(962)**

Affective

Children will:

- Develop an appreciation of prayers for the living and the dead
- Appreciate that persons faithful to God throughout the ages helped to accomplish God's plan of salvation for all people
- Grow in a desire to help accomplish God's plan for all people

Behavioral

Children will:

- Listen to stories about and retell facts about the lives of various saints and Old Testament heroes
- Name ways they can participate in salvation history
- Name ways Old Testament heroes have furthered salvation history
- Differentiate between angels and human beings as two distinct creations of God and explain that human beings who have been faithful to God on earth become saints in heaven when they die
- Create a litany of the saints that includes the names of Old Testament heroes
- Demonstrate gratitude for their membership of the communion of saints by honoring the saints and praying for the living and the dead

Subtopic: Grace, Sin and Forgiveness

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that Adam and Eve brought sin into the world, and that God promised redemption **(388)**
- Deepen their understanding of Jesus as the one who brought God's forgiveness to the world and fulfilled God's promise of **redemption**, salvation from sin **(571)**
- Realize that we are called to forgive as Jesus forgave **(Matt. 18: 21-35)**
- Understand that we are called to **conversion**. Continuously returning to God and following His ways **(1427-1428)**

- Recognize God's call to conversion proclaimed through the Old Testament prophets **(64, 218)**
- Become familiar with the *theological virtues: faith, hope, love* **(1813)**
- Realize that God's grace helps us in our conversion process

Affective

Children will:

- Appreciate the love and forgiveness of God in their lives
- Develop awareness that **grace**, God's presence in our lives, continues to save us from our sins and transform us into the likeness of God.
- Grow in a desire for conversion and reflect an attitude that evidences an understanding of ongoing conversion

Behavioral

Children will:

- Celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and God's forgiveness in our lives
- Use the gifts of intellect and free will to make good choices
- Pray for the grace to live a life of conversion, continually turning toward God

Subtopic: Life Everlasting

Cognitive

Children will:

- Become familiar with Jesus' meaning of "the Kingdom of God" (i.e., the transformation of human life and ultimately of creation itself through the presence and the power of God.) **(543-546)**
- Know that, at the end of time, the Kingdom of God revealed in hidden and lowly ways on earth, will be manifested in all its fullness **(1042) (Rev. 21:1-5)**

- Understand that both angels and saints live eternally with God in heaven

Affective

Children will:

- Grow in desire to accept the Kingdom of God fully into their lives and to witness it to others.

Behavioral

Children will:

- Practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy that the Kingdom of God might live in their hearts and be revealed to others. **(Matt. 25:31-46)**

STANDARD: SACRAMENTS

Cognitive

Children will:

- Know that God loves us and that He is the source of all life **(2258-2262)** (**1 Cor. 3:16-17; Acts 2:1-41; Titus 3:4-7; John 6:54**)
- Recognize that God empowers Christians to share His love with others in the Sacraments of Service: Matrimony and Holy Orders **(914, 916, 940-943, 1536-1582, 1604-1658, 2013, 2015)** (**Mt. 19:16-21; John 2:1-10; Mt. 19:4-6; Hosea 2:16-22; Rev. 19:7; John 20:23; Mt. 22:19**)
- Know about the words and actions of Jesus that point to the development of the Seven Sacraments **(1210-1690; for Scripture references see footnotes in CCC 1210-1690)**
- Understand the relationship between the promise of the Old Testament and the promise fulfilled in the New Testament is celebrated in the Sacraments **(53, 280-289, 421, 759, 1164, 1328-1330, 2415-2418)** (**Heb. 1:1-2; Is. 55:10-11; Genesis, Rom. 1:20; Ps. 16; Exodus, Deuteronomy, Book of Joshua**)
- Recognize that some Jewish rituals described in the Old Testament are precursors to the Sacraments
- Discover that individual Christians respond to God's call to "vocation" and living out their baptismal call in the single life, in the married life, in the religious life, and in the ordained ministry **(1694, 934-945)**
- Become familiar with the fundamental concepts of the theology of Confirmation by studying the Diocesan questions for Confirmation candidates (N.B. This objective is to be accomplished in conjunction with the parish's Confirmation preparation process in the year in which the youth are to be confirmed; see appendix with questions)

Affective

Children will:

- Grow in understanding and appreciation of the Church's guidance in helping the faithful to follow Jesus
- Appreciate that Matrimony is a Sacrament of love and life-giving covenant of fidelity between husband and wife

- Recognize that Holy Orders is a Sacrament of apostolic ministry which includes: bishop, priest and deacon
- Appreciate that the life of the church (Sacred Tradition) and Sacred Scripture are the basis of learning about the Sacraments
- Appreciate our baptismal promises as expressions of and participation in the New Covenant of Jesus
- Value the opportunity to prepare to celebrate Confirmation and desire to participate in the parish's preparation process (in the year in which youth in the parish generally celebrate this sacrament)

Behavioral

Children will:

- Experience walking in Jesus' footsteps by making life in their homes peaceful, caring, and loving
- Renew their efforts to be more loving and compassionate to the sick, the elderly, and the dying
- Pray for vocations
- Evidence understanding of the various "vocations" in the Church (i.e., ordained ministry, religious life, married life, single life) by naming and relating some details of how each lifestyle enables persons to live out their baptismal promises
- Demonstrate knowledge of the Scripture stories of the Old Testament which foretell the life and times of Jesus Christ and the institution of the Sacraments
- Show love for Jesus by conscientious preparation for and reverent participation in the Sacraments
- Demonstrate faith in action by using sacramental grace in daily life
- Recite from memory the answers to the Diocesan questions for Confirmation candidates (N.B. this objective is to be accomplished in conjunction with the parish's Confirmation preparation process in the year in which the youth are to be confirmed; see appendix with questions)

STANDARD: MORALITY

Cognitive

Children will:

- Recognize the characteristics of human beings that differentiate us from all other creatures:
 - that we are made in the image and likeness of God (**Gen. 1:27**)
 - that we have both spiritual (soul) and material (body) aspects of our being
 - that we have been created male and female (**369**)
 - that God invites us to friendship with Him (**355**)
- Understand that God gave each person a free will and intellect to use in making choices (**1730**)
- Recognize that the Bible is an important guide for living as Christians (**102, 151, 376-390, 410-412**) (**Col. 1 1:15-20; Is. 534-5; 1 Jn. 4:16**)
- Explore Scripture stories that relate the consequences of sin without contrition and redemption (e.g. Lot's wife, Sodom and Gomorrah)
- Recognize that the original sin of Adam and Eve weakened the nature of all human beings (**403-405**)
- Acknowledge that we are responsible for protecting and nurturing God's gift of life (**2258**)
- Recognize **modesty** as a virtue that helps us choose appropriate dress and behavior so as not to call inappropriate attention to one's sexual nature and oneself
- Recognize **chastity** as a virtue that helps one live as God desires us to live, promoting authentic love and using our sexual powers appropriately according to our state in life (**2337, 2345, 2348**)
- Become familiar with the concept of **social justice**, i.e., helping others to live truly human lives by practicing the Works of Mercy (**1928-1929, 1932**)
- Review and expand their understanding of ways persons can practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

Affective

Children will:

- Appreciate the differences between male and female
- Grow in respect for both genders of persons as God created them to be equal and complementary **(369-372)**
- Appreciate the Bible as a source for study and prayer that helps us grow in understanding ourselves and God's loving will for us
- Desire to nurture both the spiritual and bodily aspects of their persons **(2288)**
- Value human life, appreciating that human beings are made in God's image and likeness
- Accept that human beings have a moral obligation to care for creation **(373)**
- Develop chastity and modesty
- Value the concept of social justice
- Strengthen their resolve to practice the Works of Mercy

Behavioral

Children will:

- Live the Greatest Commandment: to love God above all others, and to love others as they love themselves
- Make connections between practicing social justice and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy **(1940-1942)**
- Discern and implement ways that they can practice the Works of Mercy as a group and as individuals
- Define **modesty** as a virtue that helps us choose appropriate dress and behavior so as not to call inappropriate attention to one's sexual nature and oneself
- Define **chastity** as a virtue that helps one live as God desires us to live, promoting authentic love and using our sexual powers appropriately according to our state in life **(2337)**
- Demonstrate respect for both male and female persons and
- Discuss the complementary aspects of male and female persons
- Demonstrate care for their bodies and spirits to show respect for God's plan
- Explore how human beings have reflected God's image and likeness by studying the Scriptures and the lives of the saints

STANDARD: PRAYER

Cognitive

Children will:

- Recognize Scripture as God's word **(105-106)**
- Acquire familiarity with the Psalms as Scriptural prayers of praise, contrition, intercession and thanksgiving **(2525)**
- Recognize the Canticle of Zechariah in the Liturgy of the Hours as a prayer that recalls God's promises to the chosen people **(Lk. 1:67-79) (1174, 523)**
- Develop understanding of the Magnificat as Mary's Song that praises the great works of God in Mary's life and recognize its origins in the prayer of Hannah **(1 Samuel 2:1-10; Lk. 1:46-55) (2619)**
- Know the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary **(1674)**

Affective

Children will:

- Grow in appreciation and desire for prayer as an essential way of developing a relationship with God
- Be grateful for God's love expressed in His listening to our prayers
- Appreciate the power of intercessory prayer and become comfortable with vocalizing their prayers
- Develop reverence for the Bible as the inspired Word of God
- Deepen their respect for places of worship
- Appreciate Sacred Scripture as God's guide for living and as a source of prayer

Behavioral

Children will:

- Pray for their needs and the needs of others
- Actively participate in liturgies, communal prayers or class prayer services
- Experience prayer based on Sacred Scripture, including meditating on Sacred Scripture, especially using weekly Sunday readings

- Evidence reverence for the Bible as the inspired Word of God by treating them with extra care, protecting them and keeping them clean (i.e., not writing on them, keeping Bibles in places where they will be protected e.g., on/in desks or bookcases, not on the floor, etc.)
- Exhibit a reverent and prayerful attitude in places of worship **(1186, 1199)**
- Pray the Canticle of Zechariah and the Magnificat
- Pray an Act of Hope from memory
- Experience a variety of prayer forms – silence, listening, song, gestures, spontaneous, petitions, prayers of thanksgiving, etc.
- Pray the rosary
- Pray the Psalms individually and communally

Vocabulary

Anointing	Paraclete
Ark of the Covenant	Paschal Mystery
Canticle of Zachariah	Passover
Chastity	Patriarch
Chrism	Pentateuch
Christian Scriptures (New Testament)	
Communion of Saints	Plagues
Consecration	Proverb
Conversion	Prophet
Covenant	Psalm
Exodus	Reconciliation
Free Will	Redemption
Glorious Mysteries	Revelation
Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)	Salvation History
Inspiration	
Kingdom of God	Sanctifying Grace
Manna	Seder
Modesty	Stewardship
Myth	Torah
Order of Creation	Unleavened Bread
Original Sin	

Persons of Faith

Adam and Eve	The Holy Family
Abraham and Sarah	Isaiah
Isaac	Jeremiah
Noah	St. John the Baptist
Moses	Saint Joseph
Aaron	Our Lady of Guadalupe
David	Saul
Elijah	Samuel
Ezekiel	

Scripture Stories

Adam and Eve	Solomon
Cain and Abel	Jonah
Noah	Job
Sodom and Gomorrah	Esther

Abraham and Sarah
The Sacrifice of Isaac
Jacob and Esau
Joseph and His Brothers
Moses and the Exodus
Saul and David

Judith
The call of Jeremiah
The call of Samuel
Wedding at Cana
Last Supper

Liturgical Year

Holy Days of Obligation
Advent
Lent

Triduum
Pentecost

Memorization

Ten Commandments
Names of the Books of the Torah (Pentateuch)
Names of the Four Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Ezekiel,
Jeremiah, Isaiah, Elijah
The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

Prayers To Know

Review prayers from previous levels
Act of Hope
Memorare
Rosary – Glorious Mysteries

Recommended Psalms and Proverbs for Study and Reflection

Psalms

1
8
16
23
27
32
40
51
63
67
84
91
100
104
117
118
121
131

Proverbs

10:4
10:7
10:19
10:20
11:3
12:10
12:25
13:13
14:17
14:22
15:1
15:32
16:1
16:28
17:22
18:10
19:8
20:11

136
150

22:24-25
24:26