



## Creed

By the end of 1<sup>st</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God. (200-202)
2. That nobody made God. (213)
3. That God always was, is now, and always will be. (212-213)
4. That God made heaven and earth. (325)
5. That God is the creator of all things. (292)
6. That there are three Persons in the one God – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (253)
7. That God the Son became man and that his name is Jesus. (464)
8. That Jesus is God the Son, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. (469)
9. That Jesus is fully God and fully man. (469)
10. That Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose to life again on Easter Sunday. (1169)
11. That Jesus showed us how to live. (459)
12. That the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity and is the gift of God's love. (685)
13. That Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ. (525)
14. That Mary is the Mother of God the Son, Jesus. (509)
15. That Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are the Holy Family. (Tradition)
16. That St. Ann and St. Joachim are the parents of Mary, the grandparents of Jesus. (Tradition)
17. That Mary is our mother, too. (963)
18. That the Church is the family of God. (1655)
19. That Advent is the time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas (the Birth of Jesus). (524)
20. That Lent, the 40 days before Easter (the Resurrection of Jesus), is a time for prayer. (540)
21. That each person has a guardian angel assigned by God to protect him/her. (336)
22. That the saints in heaven are real human beings who lived holy lives. (1477)
23. That the saints' response to God's call provides a model for us to follow as we live our lives. (941, 2030) **Note to Catechist: Use this point as a way to begin to introduce the concept of vocation. Vocation is the call of Christ to all the baptized to follow him in a particular way of life. (897, 941)**
24. That the saints can help us and that we should ask them to pray for us. (956)

## Expressions of Faith:

- Talking about God; that he has always existed and that there are three persons in one God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
- Sharing and explaining with family and friends that Christmas is about celebrating Jesus' birthday.
- Talking about how Jesus died for our sins, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven.
- Talking about the family of God and how we are all included in God's family.
- Talking about angels as spiritual beings, and that each person has a guardian angel.
- Talking and singing about Mary as Jesus' mother and how she is our Mother, too.

Vocabulary Words:

priest	Spirit	St. Ann	St. Joachim
soul			

**Liturgy and Sacraments**

By the end of 1<sup>st</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That Baptism is the sacrament by which we receive the gift of God's life within us, have our sins wiped away, become adopted sons or daughters of God the Father, and become members of the Church. (1267-1270, 1279)
2. That Baptism is the gateway to all other sacraments and is the first Sacrament of Initiation. (1212-1213)
3. That Baptism is birth into new life in Christ. (1277)
4. That the baptismal font, the holy water, the candle, the Oil of the Catechumens, Sacred Chrism, and the white garment are the signs and symbols of the Sacrament of Baptism. (1238-43)
5. That Jesus shares himself with us in a special way during Mass. (1323)
6. The two main parts of Mass are the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. (GIRM 28) **Note to Catechist: At this age, the two parts should be presented simply. The Liturgy of the Word includes reading and explaining the stories of our faith found in the Bible. The Liturgy of the Eucharist includes the memorial of the Last Supper and the changing of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus.**
7. That the Holy Eucharist is Jesus. (1244, 1331, 1353)
8. That we prepare for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation by forgiving others and by saying that we are sorry after we do something that we know we should not have done. (1450-1451)
9. That the church building is a sacred place where Jesus is truly present and where God's people gather to worship him. (1198)
10. That the sanctuary lamp identifies that Jesus is present in the tabernacle. (CIC 940) **Note to Catechist: Be sure to take the children into the church and show them the sanctuary lamp and tabernacle. Point out that there are times when the sanctuary lamp is not lit, which indicates that Jesus is not present in the tabernacle.**
11. That we show reverence to Jesus present in the tabernacle by genuflecting. **Note to Catechist: Teach children where the tabernacle is located in the church and to genuflect on the right knee toward the tabernacle because Jesus is there. (1378) If the sanctuary lamp is not lit, they should not genuflect.**
12. That the colors for the liturgical seasons are as follows: Advent—Purple; Christmas—White; Ordinary Time—Green; Lent—Purple; Easter—White. Other colors are used for certain days during the year. (Tradition, GIRM 346) **Note to Catechist: Be sure that the prayer space/liturgical space in your classroom reflect the color of the liturgical season.**
13. That Holy Days of Obligation are special days when we come together to worship God at Mass, in addition to Sundays. (2177-2180)  
**Note to Catechist: The bishops of various countries are permitted by Rome to establish rules about the observance of Holy Days of Obligation in their particular**

countries. In the United States, the following is the norm:

- (a) Immaculate Conception (December 8) and Christmas (December 25) are always Holy Days of Obligation, regardless of the day of the week on which they fall;
- (b) Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1), Ascension (40 days after Easter), Assumption of Mary (August 15), and All Saints Day (November 1) are normally Holy Days of Obligation but not when they fall on a Monday or Saturday, although, attendance at Mass is always to be encouraged;
- (c) In some dioceses including the Diocese of Marquette, the celebration of Ascension Thursday is transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter. (2043-2180)

Expressions of Faith:

- Participating at the Mass.
- Displaying an awareness of the meaning of the individual signs and symbols of Baptism: font, holy water, candle, oils, and the white garment.
- Talking about how Jesus is present on the altar, in the priest, in the Word, and in the assembly.
- Genuflecting on the right knee toward the tabernacle as a sign of reverence to Jesus.
- Blessing themselves with holy water as they enter and leave the church.
- Displaying an awareness that the church is God’s house by not running or speaking out of turn.
- Being quiet and reverent in church, showing reverence for the items used for worship.
- Talking about the Holy Eucharist as being the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Vocabulary Words:

Advent	colors, liturgical	Lent	Sacrament
All Saints Day	genuflect	liturgical seasons	Stations of the Cross
blessing	Holy Day of Obligation	Liturgy	Way of the Cross
Chrism	holy oils		

**Christian Morality**

By the end of 1<sup>st</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve him and so to enter heaven. (1721) **Note to Catechist: Heaven is everlasting joy, happiness, and glory with God. Hell is everlasting suffering, the primary pain of which is separation from God. Purgatory is a state after death in which holy souls (those who have died in a state of grace but are not yet perfectly purified) are made free from the effects of sin so as to enter heaven. It is important that the students understand that, since all of those who are in purgatory died in the state of sanctifying grace, they will all be in heaven one day. Minimize the idea of heaven as a place and indicate that it is a spiritual state of being in the presence of God.**

2. That God makes all human beings very good, in his image and likeness, and we must respect human life in all stages and forms. (356-361, 2270)
3. That God always loves us. (218-221, 604-605)
4. That sin is choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, that it displeases God and hurts us and others as well. (1849-1850, 1871-1872, Mt 25:31-46)
5. That there is a difference between a sin and a mistake. (1857-1860, 1862)  
**Note to Catechist: An example of a sin would be taking the Lord's Name in vain. An example of a mistake would be  $2 + 2 = 5$ .**
6. That the Holy Spirit helps them to make good decisions in their everyday lives. (1695, 1830-1831)
7. That Jesus healed the sick and forgave sinners, and they will be familiar with at least one of the scripture passages where Jesus healed the sick, e.g., when he cured the crippled woman. (Lk 13:10-13) (1503-1505, 2616)
8. That we should ask God for forgiveness when we do wrong. (1847)
9. That when we pray the Act of Contrition, we ask for forgiveness. (Tradition)
10. That grace is a gift from God that helps us to be holy. (1999, 2021-2024)
11. That God gave Moses the Ten Commandments; these are his laws by which we are to live. (2064, Dt 5:6-21) **Note to Catechist: Offer understandable examples to the children of how they might break God's commandments, e.g., by lying, stealing, not listening to Mom and Dad, and not using Jesus' name with respect and love.**
12. That the first three commandments are about love of God and the remaining seven are about love of neighbor. (2067, Dt 5:6-21)
13. That Christ taught us the Greatest Commandment—"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your mind." The second is like it, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Lv 19:18, Dt 6:5, Mt 22:37-40, 2055) **Note to Catechist: The Greatest Commandment does not replace the Ten Commandments but raises them to a higher level. Bishop Baraga's motto "Unum est necessarium" — One thing is necessary — refers to this commandment.**
14. The Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Mt 7:12, Tb 4:15)
15. That they are charged to be good stewards of the earth and its resources. (2402, 2415-2418)

#### Expressions of Faith:

- Talking and singing about God's love and their need to love God.
- Explaining that God made everything good, that we are made in his likeness; talking about heaven.
- Asking the Holy Spirit and their patron saint(s) to help them in doing good.
- Recognizing that doing wrong displeases God and hurts others.
- Living by the Golden Rule; making good choices.
- Saying "I'm sorry" when they hurt or offend someone.
- Asking for forgiveness if they hurt others.

Vocabulary Words:

commandment	contrition	grace	Great Commandment
sin			patron saint

**Prayer**

By the end of 1<sup>st</sup> grade, students will have learned:

1. That prayer is a relationship with God. (2558)
2. That prayer is talking to and listening to God. (2559)
3. That there are various ways of praying—learned (memorized) prayers, spontaneous prayers, and song. (2625-2643)
4. That Jesus asks us to pray always. (2633) **Note to Catechists: You need to make it clear that “praying always” can take many forms from memorized to spontaneous prayers, such as “Thank you Lord,” at any given moment of the day.**
5. That silence helps us to pray and be close to God. (2717)
6. That we can and should pray anywhere. (2691-2696)
7. That a Catholic church or chapel is the most sacred place for prayer because Jesus is present in the tabernacle. (2691, 2696)
8. That as Catholics we begin our prayers with the Sign of the Cross, and know how to make it. (2157)
9. That the Lord’s Prayer was given to us by Jesus. (2759, Lk 11:2-4, Mt 6: 9-15)
10. To recite the Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Angel of God prayer, and the Grace before Meals. (2759-2865, 2676-2677, 2680-2682, 336)
11. To participate in Mass reverently. (Tradition, 1324, 1343)
12. To participate in the Stations of the Cross, particularly during Lent. (Tradition, 1674)
13. To participate in praying an act of contrition. (2629-2633, 2646)
14. That there is a specific way to pray the Rosary, and they will know the rudiments of doing so. (2678, 2708, cf.1674)
15. That in the Hail Mary we ask our Blessed Mother to pray for us. (2676-2679, Lk 1:39-45)  
**Note to Catechist: Be sure that the children recognize that the statue of Mary represents her. We do not pray to the statue. Also that we do not worship Mary; we ask her as the Mother of God to intercede on our behalf. These same concepts apply to any statue or saint.**

Expressions of Faith:

- Making the Sign of the Cross correctly.
- Genuflecting to Jesus in the tabernacle.
- Praying with their families before meals, praying spontaneously several times during the day, and saying bedtime prayers.
- Becoming familiar with the Rosary, recognizing that in the Rosary we pray to Jesus through Mary.
- Reciting the Angel of God prayer and an act of contrition.
- Knowing and explaining that in praying to Mary we are asking her to pray to God for us.
- Participating in communal prayers with family and peers, such as the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

Vocabulary Words:

Rosary			
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**Prayers to be Learned — by end of Grade One**

Angel of God [K]	<i>Grace before Meals</i>	
Glory Be [K]	<i>Hail Mary</i>	
Sign of the Cross [K]	<i>Our Father</i>	

**Expectations of Parents**

Grade One parents:

1. Attend Sunday Mass and actively participate in Mass responses with your child.
2. Make it a family priority for your son/daughter to attend faith formation classes.
3. Witness a baptism in the parish community with your child.
4. Teach and pray with your child these prayers: Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Angel of God (prayer to his/her guardian angel), and Grace before Meals.
5. Pray spontaneously as a family at meals and/or bedtime, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.
6. Bless your child—saying a short prayer while tracing the Sign of the Cross on his/her head.
7. Talk about God as part of his/her daily family life.
8. Celebrate Sundays and special family and Church feasts (e.g., anniversaries of Baptism, Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter) in some special way in the home.
9. Read/tell Bible stories to your child.
10. Discuss the content of each religion class and your child’s understanding of it. Make it a family learning experience. Provide feedback to the catechist.
11. Participate as a family in “whole church” (intergenerational) parish activities when offered.