



Saint Patrick's Church

Office of Whole Parish Catechesis

327 Greenwich Street, Belvidere, New Jersey 07823

Curriculum Guide

Rev. Richard Rusk, Pastor
475-2559

Mrs. Marietta Spagnola, PCL
475-4919

This curriculum is based on the philosophy of Whole Parish Catechesis. Whole Parish Catechesis is a vision of faith formation that is rooted in the documents of Vatican II, the *General Directory for Catechesis*, *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and “*Our Hearts Were Burning*”. It promotes faith formation as an ongoing life long process that is greatly enhanced by intergenerational learning and interaction. As a result we have developed this curriculum to suit learners of all ages, from 5 to 95.

Through developing opportunities for prayer, journaling, Faith Sharing, building Households of Faith, reflecting on The Word, and promoting active service and outreach, all members of the community of faith are supported in their own faith formation and are invited to reclaim their personal and collective role in the formation of all other members of the community. All members of the parish who participate will enjoy the satisfaction of helping others to deepen their faith and at the same time enhance their own relationship with God.

Whole Parish Catechesis recognizes and celebrates everyone at all ages as having an equal role and responsibility within the Christian community. Children are as important in the catechetical process as ever. Parents are strengthened in the role as the principal and primary educators of their children. At the same time, we have expanded our efforts to support quality catechesis for all generations as well.

This curriculum guide represents the scope and sequence of the content material to be presented at the intergenerational assemblies and that material which is intended to be covered at home. The core content is repeated at every age level and is covered in an age appropriate manner. The repeated attention paid to each topic, each year, will help all learners to grasp the material as their maturity allows. The doctrine and prayers listed at each age level are expected to be mastered.

The instructional texts for both young and adult learners are aligned so that every age level is attending to the same content material at the same time. These topics are explored in different depths as maturity and understanding allows. The texts conform to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, with the subject matter referenced to the Catechism.

The core content of the curriculum for every age level is divided into seven areas of study. The areas of study are: *Revelation, Trinity, Jesus Christ, The Church, Morality, Sacraments, and The Kingdom of God*. While addressing each area of the curriculum the assembly presentations will integrate prayer, scripture, literature, faith sharing, music, and ritual actions.

Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten

Whom does God love?

- God loves everyone.
- We love you, God.
- Creation is a gift.

Who is God?

- God is our Father.
- Our Father, who art in Heaven.
- People are special.

Whom did God send?

- God sent his Son, Jesus.
- God wants you to have what you need.

What is the Church?

- The Church is our Family.
- We pray together.
- God's work is to create.

Whom do you love?

- You love everyone.
- Help us love.
- God made all people.

Where is God?

- God is in the Church.
- God made people to be together.

Why do you praise God?

- God is forever loving.
- God helps you.

Prayers and Doctrine

- The Sign of the Cross
- Genuflecting
- Glory Be
- Grace Before Meals

Service and Outreach

- 2 hours, choosing from the calendar of service activities.

Grade One – Part One of a Two Year Communion Preparation

What has God made?

- God made you and all creation.
- God's gifts help you.

How do you know God?

- You learn about God through Jesus and the Bible.
- People are made in God's image.

Who is Jesus?

- Jesus is God's Son who loves you.
- Jesus, help others.
- Jesus shows you how to care for others.

How does the Church help you?

- The Church helps you follow Jesus.
- God shares his work with humans.

How do you show love?

- You live by the commandments.
- Show us the way, Jesus.
- God loves all people.

Is Jesus with You?

- Jesus gives the Church signs of love.
- We believe.
- The family is the center of life.

How long will you know God?

- God invites you to be happy with him forever.
- Now and at the hour of our death.
- You can help others.

Prayers and Doctrine

- The Lord's Prayer
- The Hail Mary
- Sacrament-Baptism

Service and Outreach

- 3 hours, choosing from the calendar of service activities.

Grade Two- Part Two of a Two Year Communion Preparation

What does God give you?

- God gives you everything.
- Take care of what God has made.

Who is God?

- God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Life is a gift from God.

What does Jesus Share?

- Jesus shares God's love and mercy.
- All people deserve what they need to live.

What does the Church celebrate?

- The Church celebrates God's love and forgiveness.
- We are forgiven.
- Your study and play is part of creation.

How do you follow Jesus?

- You listen to his teachings.
- We pray to be strong.
- There is one human family.

How do you receive Jesus?

- Jesus gives himself in the Eucharist.
- Thank you for the Mass.
- You participate in family life.

What does God want?

- God wants you to live in love forever.
- We hear good news.
- Jesus helps those in need.

Prayers and Doctrine

- Act of Contrition
- 3 Signs of the Cross before the Gospel
- Sacrament-Baptism, Penance, Eucharist
- Receiving the Sacrament of Penance
- Receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist

Service and Outreach

- 4 hours, including family night, *Households of Faith* and choosing from the calendar of service activities.

Grade Three

Why do you worship?

- You worship to show gratitude.
- Protect the environment.

What is the Trinity?

- God is the three Persons in one.
- In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Honor the worth of all people.

What is the Body of Christ?

- The Church is the Body of Christ.
- You can help others have what they need.

What is the Church's work?

- The Church shares the good news.
- We gather together.
- All workers should be respected.

What is the law of love?

- Jesus asks you to love as he loves.
- You are connected to people everywhere.

What are sacraments?

- The seven sacraments are signs from Jesus.
- The family is a community.

What is God's kingdom?

- God's kingdom is his reign of justice and love.
- We pray with the saints.
- Jesus loves the poor and sick.

Prayers and Doctrine

- Prayer to the Guardian Angel
- 3 kinds of sin: Original, Venial, Mortal
- Sacrament-Baptism, Penance, Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick
- 10 Commandments
- Trinity

Service and Outreach

- 5 hours within the family, including family night and service from *Households of Faith*.

Grade Four

What is God's Plan?

- God's plan is for peace and harmony.
- Conserve and renew resources.

What is the image of God?

- God creates you and shares his life with you.
- Respecting dignity requires action.

What does Jesus Teach?

- Jesus teaches you to love God and Others.
- God, we honor you by our actions.
- All people have basic rights that need to be met.

What does the Church Teach?

- God calls you to serve him and the Church.
- Yes. Lord.
- All Work has dignity and value.

Why Value Life?

- Human life is sacred because it comes from God.
- We dedicate ourselves to honoring life.
- The suffering of one affects all of us.

How often does God forgive you?

- Forgiveness is without end.
- We are sorry.
- Communities act together.

How do you work for the kingdom?

- You love others and care for their needs.
- Forgive us our trespasses.
- The poor have value and dignity.

Prayers and Doctrine

- Apostles Creed
- Praying the Rosary
- Sacrament-Baptism, Penance, Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders
- 2 Great Commandments
- Assumption

Service and Outreach

- 6 hours, including service from family night and the *Households of Faith*.

Grade Five

Through whom does God speak?

- God speaks through the Church.
- Share the earth's resources.

What is the mystery of God?

- The Trinity shares life and love.
- The life of all people is sacred.

Why was the Son of God born?

- Jesus brought salvation and new life.
- With rights come responsibilities.

How is the Church united?

- The Holy Spirit makes the Church one in Jesus.
- Your work is a contribution.

What helps you know the way?

- The sacraments give you grace to follow Jesus.
- We examine our consciences.
- You can make differences in people's lives.

Why do you gather for Mass?

- The Eucharist unites you to Christ and others.
- You take part in communities.

Why is there hope for eternal life?

- The Resurrection makes possible life forever with God.
- The Church focuses on the poor.

Prayers and Doctrine

- Hail Holy Queen
- The Assumption
- Immaculate Conception
- Resurrection
- Praying the Rosary
- Sacrament-Baptism, Penance, Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, Matrimony
- Parts of the Mass

Service and Outreach

- 7 hours, including family night and service from the *Households of Faith*.

Grade Six

What is God like?

- God is faithful to his people.
- Provide for future generations.

How does God remember his people?

- He saves them and gives them laws for living.
- Faithful living requires caring for the needs of others.

How is the Messiah?

- Jesus is the Anointed One and Savior.
- You are called to protect the rights of others.

What are the Church's marks?

- The Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.
- Work conditions must be fair and safe.

How do you work for justice?

- You respect the dignity of others.
- We are blessed.
- Communities work together for change.

What is my vocation?

- You are called to work for the kingdom.
- Communities have responsibilities.

What will happen at the second coming?

- Jesus will return in glory.
- We gather for strength and unity.
- The Church works to overcome injustice.

Prayers and Doctrine

- Hail Holy Queen
- Marks of the Church
- The Beatitudes
- The 7 Sacraments
- Precepts of the Church

Service and Outreach

- 8 hours, including service from family night and the *Households of Faith*.

Grade Seven and Eight
A Two Year Confirmation Preparation

Jesus in The New Testament

- The most influential person in history
- What influences shaped Jesus as he grew up?
- What did people see in Jesus?
- What did people hear when Jesus spoke?
- Why was his message so revolutionary?
- What was the day to day ministry of Jesus like?
- Who were the friends and enemies of Jesus?
- In what ways do people remember Jesus today?
- Who is Jesus for you?
- If Jesus is God, what kind of God do we have?

The Sacraments

- What is the difference between a child's view and an adult view of the sacraments?
- What are the signs of God's presence?
- What is the process for becoming a Church member?
- What are the Sacraments of Initiation?
- Why is the Eucharist both a meal and a sacrifice?
- Why is the Eucharist the source and goal of all the sacraments?
- Can Anointing the Sick really heal someone who is sick?
- How can we help heal others?
- How is marriage both a Sacrament of Service and a Sacrament of Vocation?
- How do all Christians share in the priesthood of Jesus?
- What are the three stages of Holy Orders?
- How do the sacraments differ from private prayer?
- How do sacraments remain the same and yet change with the seasons?

The Apostle's Creed

- The God of Our Ancestors
 - God is Almighty
 - God loves us in much the same way as parents love a child
 - God is called into existence and sustains all of creation.
- Disciples of Jesus
 - Jesus invites all to be his friend
 - Jesus is the Messiah
 - We share Jesus' vocation
- The Good News
 - The Gospel
 - The Paschal Mystery is central to the Gospel
 - The Redeeming Grace of the Paschal Mystery
- The Body of Christ
 - The Holy Catholic Church
 - The Marks of the Church

- The people of God
- Saints and Sinners
 - The Communion of Saints
 - United with Jesus in heaven and on earth
 - Baptism unites us with Christ
- From Here to Eternity
 - We are an Easter People
 - Life everlasting

Prayers and Doctrine

- Hail Holy Queen
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The Paschal Mystery
- Virtues
- Pentecost

The Commandments

Taking Command

- Rules to live by
- Physical, moral and divine laws
- The Greatest Commandment

I Am the Lord Your God

- It's all about faith, hope and charity
- Whom do you worship?

You Shall Not Take the Name of the Lord Your God in Vain/Remember to Keep Holy the Sabbath Day

- It's all about respect
- A reminder of God's creation
- The Sunday Eucharist

Honor Your Father and Your Mother

- God is our Father
- The Christian family
- Jesus gave honor to his Father

You Shall Not Kill

- The Gift of Life
- The Practice of nonviolence
- All life is sacred

You Shall not Commit Adultery/ You Shall Not Covet Your Neighbor's Wife

- Love and faithfulness
- Developing friendships
- To love, honor, and cherish

You Shall Not Steal/You shall Not Covet Your Neighbor's Goods

- Respect for Others
- Stewards of the earth
- Social justice
- You Shall Not Bear False Witness

- The source of all truth
- Called to bear witness
- The Golden Rule

Discipleship

Believing in Yourself

- What makes you a special someone?
- How do you assemble your adult self?

Relating to Your parents

- Why is it difficult to relate to parents?
- How do you grow and mature?

Choosing Your Friends

- What roles do your peers play?
- What qualities make a friend?
- How can you recognize harmful peer pressure?

Growing in Your Faith

- How do you develop your spiritual side?
- What are some different methods of prayer?

Understanding the Value of Sexuality

- How is your sexuality a gift to be treasured?
- How has God trusted you with this gift of sexuality?
- In what ways does our culture challenge the value of sexuality?

Making Positive Choices

- Why do people abuse drugs and alcohol?
- What are alternate routes to the “escape” of drugs and alcohol?

Learning to Act Justly

- What can you do to combat injustice in the world?

Accepting Challenges

- How is the Church organized?
- How does the Church operate?

Morality

What’s Right and What’s Wrong?

- What do Mother Nature and human reason have to do with morality?
- What are your rights?
- What rights do others have?

Our Conscience and Convictions

- Why do we feel guilty when we do wrong, while others do not?

The Bottom Line

- How does a morality based on faith differ from a morality based on human reason or natural law?
- How can we “put on the mind and heart of Jesus?”

A New Understanding

- What are some ways that faith in Jesus calls us to love ourselves? To love others? To love God?

Freedom to Choose

- What’s the difference between freedom and liberty?

- Why does increased freedom always mean increased responsibility?

Making Decisions

- How can you know for sure that your decisions are right?
- What are the four signs of a good moral decision?

What Do You See?

- How does faith affect moral decision making?
- Are you saint or prophet material?

You're Not Alone.

- How does the Church help us know what's right and what's wrong?
- Why is the Sacrament of Reconciliation important?

Service and Outreach gr. 7

- 15 hours, including service from family night and the *Households of Faith*.

Service and Outreach gr. 8

- 20 hours, including service from family night and the *Households of Faith*.

Adult Catechesis

Adult Catechesis is two fold. The first segment follows the general scope and sequence of the general curriculum for young learners. The second segment, directed solely at adult learners, contains content aimed at developing faithful households. The curriculum listed here is that of the second segment. For the curriculum content of the first segment please refer to the curriculum for grades 7 & 8.

Taking into consideration the fact that adults learn differently than children our Adult Catechesis component will consist of the following strategies for relaying and digesting information, for making faith connections with our everyday lives, for enriching our faith life:

- Discussion
- Group dynamics
- Reflection
- Bible search and study
- Simulation exercises
- Meditations

The content material for Adult Catechesis unfolds from the following categories:

- Jesus and Discipleship
- Spirituality
- Scripture
- Catholic Life and Practice
- Sacraments and Liturgy
- Morality
- Peace and Social Justice