



Pre-Kindergarten Religion Curriculum Standards

The Religion Standards are ordered by preschool age level and are meant to prepare the students for future religious instruction. The standards are arranged by the Six Tasks of the Catechesis- *Knowledge of Faith, Liturgical Education, Morality / Life in Christ, Teaching to Pray, The Life, Community and History of the Church and The Church's Missionary Life and Service*. The tasks are each further divided into anchor standards. The standards are written to direct teachers to the significant themes and concepts to be covered in the year. The depth at which we teach these concepts varies as we consider the developmental stages and the age level appropriateness.

The standards will be further unpacked, and we will prioritize the essential standards by age level and detail specific concepts that should be addressed. This will further clarify the standard, providing consistency and preventing gaps in instruction, and provide links to background information which may be helpful to the teacher. Many of the Six Tasks of the Catechesis will be repeated throughout a student's religion instruction, so they may only be introduced in the pre-kindergarten years, then more fully developed in later years.

The Pre-Kindergarten Religion Standards are to be implemented in the 2026-2027 school year. New curriculum resources are under review with recommendations forthcoming, however, textbooks may be selected from the current [Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series](#) published by the USCCB (205.2 BP).

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We would like to thank the members of the Pre-School Religion Committee for their generosity of time, and commitment to the faith formation of our students:

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The Six Tasks of the Catechesis are divided between 3-year old, 4-year old, both (as they are introduced and repeated) and kindergarten. This is identified in parenthesis at the end of each statement.

TASK OF THE CATECHESIS 1: KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH:

Revelation

- PK-KF-R Begins to understand that God created the world because He loves us (creation) (4-year old)
- PK-KF-R Begins to understand that God created me, my family, others and all I see (3-year old)
- PK-KF-R Begins to understand that angels have been created by God and that God has given each of us a Guardian Angel to watch over and protect us (4-year old)
- PK-KF-R-1 Begins to understand the Bible is the holy book that talks about God and Creation (4-year old)
- PK-KF-R-2 Begins to understand the Bible as a book which contains the stories of God's creation and of Jesus' life (3-year old)
- PK-KF-R-3 Begins to understand that Jesus came to live on earth because He wanted to share God's love with us (Both)
- PK-KF-R-3 Begins to understand that Jesus is God and Man, Son of God and Son of Mary (4-year old)
- PK-KF-R-3 Listens to the stories of Jesus Who died on the Cross for us, rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven (Both)

Trinity

- PK-KF-T Repeats the Sign of the Cross (3-year old)
- PK-KF-T Becomes familiar with and shows reverence for the names of the three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit (4-year old)

TASK OF THE CATECHESIS 2: LITURGICAL EDUCATION:

Eucharist

- PK-LE-E Experiences Mass where we worship and thank God (4-year old)
- PK-LE-E Associates the parish priest with the Mass and is able to identify what he does within the Church (Both)
- PK-LE-E Begins to recite grade level Mass responses (See Task 4: Teaching to Pray) (4-year old)
- PK-LE-E Begins to identify the altar, chalice, tabernacle, ciborium, pall, priest's vestments, crucifix, and ambo in pictures or in person (4-year old)

Celebration of the Sacraments

- PK-LE-S Begins to understand the definition of a Sacrament (4-year old) & (kindergarten)
- PK-LE-S-1 Begins to understand that Baptism is a Sacrament (4-year old)
- PK-LE-S-2 Begins to understand that Jesus loves us always and forgives us (3-year old)
- PK-LE-S-3 Begins to recognize that God has given us parents and a priest to show us how to love others (3-year old)



Liturgical Resources

- PK-LE-LR-1 Identifies the special seasons in the Liturgical Calendar: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter and special feasts of Mary and the saints
- PK-LE-LR-a Begins to associate the different colors with the different seasons of the year
- PK-LE-LR-2 Begins to recognize items in the classroom, church and at home that are “holy” and regards them with reverence
- PK-LE-LR-3 Prayerfully listens to Psalm 117 and responds “Hallelujah”
- PK-LE-LR-4 Demonstrates visible reverence (such as bows head or places hand over heart) when blessed by the priest, parents or teacher

**these concepts will be introduced with 3-year olds and 4-year olds, but will be further explored and instructed in kindergarten and beyond*

TASK OF THE CATECHESIS 3: MORALITY / LIFE IN CHRIST:

The Human Person

- PK-ME-HP Begins to understand that God made us to know and to love Him (3-year old)
- PK-ME-HP-1 Understands how saying a kind word to someone or doing a good deed is a way to show God’s love (3-year old)
- PK-ME-HP-2 Begins to associate happiness with loving and being close to God and to other people (3-year old)
- PK-ME-HP-3 Begins to name and distinguish right (good) from wrong (sinful) actions (4-year old)
- PK-ME-HP-3 Names times when they can ask God to help them obey their parents and to treat others with kindness (Both)
- PK-ME-HP-4 Compares the reason for and the purpose of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes with rules at home and at school (4-year old)
- PK-ME-HP-5 Begins to recognize the word virtue as a gift from God (4-year old)

The Human Community

- PK-ME-HC Demonstrates awareness of the needs and feelings of others (3-year old)
- PK-ME-HC-1 Begins to understand the word sin referring to when we hurt others and don’t listen to God
- PK-ME-HC-2 Begins to understand that God created all people, creatures and the world as a gift for us all (3-year old)
- PK-ME-HC-2 Shows the importance of sharing and respecting classroom materials and school resources (3-year old)
- PK-ME-HC-2 Begins to understand, participate in and reflect on service to help care for all God’s people, creatures and world (Both)

<u>TASK OF THE CATECHESIS 4: TEACHING TO PRAY:</u>
<u>The Universal Call of Prayer, The Importance of Prayer</u>
• PK-TP-UC Begins to understand that prayer is talking to God (Both) • PK-TP-UC Listens to simple prayers (Both)
<u>Forms of Prayer</u>
• PK-TP-FP Spends time with God in Prayer (3-year old) • PK-TP-FP Knows that through prayer we thank God for our many gifts and we ask God to help us with our worries (3-year old)
<u>Expressions of Prayer</u>
• PK-TP-EP Recognizes that we pray at home, at school and at church (3-year old) • PK-TP-EP Experiences prayer with music and in short periods of silence (4-year old) & (kindergarten)
<u>Our Father: Summary of the Gospel</u>
• PK-P-Of Begins to recognize the Our Father is a prayer we say at Mass and in our daily lives (3-year old)
<u>Devotional Prayer</u>
• PK-TP-DP Begins to participate in devotional practices, short communal prayers related to the rosary or Stations of the Cross (3-year old)
<u>TASK OF THE CATECHESIS 5: THE LIFE, COMMUNITY AND HISTORY OF THE CHURCH:</u>
<u>The Church in God's Plan: Church History</u>
• PK-LCH-CH Listens to stories about the parish patron saint (3-year old) • PK-LCH-CH Begins to understand the word history as the story of the past
<u>Models of the Catholic Church</u>
• PK-LCH-MC Identifies Church as a place where all people join together to worship, to thank God, to serve God, and to serve one another (4-year old) & (kindergarten) • PK-LCH-MC-1 Associates their parish church as the place where their community, God's family, joins in prayer together • PK-LCH-MC-2 Experiences "Body of Christ" as who we are when we pray together and use our hands to help others (4-year old) • PK-LCH-MC-3 Recognizes that God loves us so much that the Holy Spirit lives in each of us (Both)
<u>The Mystery and Marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic</u>
• PK-LCH-MMC Begins to understand "holy" in reference to the Church (4-year old)



<u>Christ's Faithful- Hierarchy, Laity, Consecrated Life</u>
• PK-LCH-CF-1 Begins to identify the Bishop and recognizes his role as the leader of our diocese, the local Church • PK-LCH-CF-2 Begins to understand that Sunday is an important day to be with God and to go to Church (4-year old) & (kindergarten) • PK-LCH-CF-3 Understands that Jesus grew up in a loving family (3-year old) • PK-LCH-CF-3 Begins to understand Mary (and Joseph) as part of the Holy Family (3-year old) • PK-LCH-CF-4 Begins to understand the word "holy" as being close to God • PK-LCH-CF-5 Begins to understand that both the priest and their parents serve God by taking care of others in their roles (3-year old)
<u>Communion of Saints</u>
• PK-LCH-CS Listens to stories of saints as heroes of our faith who are part of the family of the Church in heaven (Both)
<u>Mary as Model of the Church</u>
• PK-LCH-Mary Begins to understand that Mary is the Mother of Jesus, Mother of God and our Mother (3-year old)
<u>TASK OF THE CATECHESIS 6: THE CHURCH'S MISSIONARY LIFE AND SERVICE:</u>
<u>Baptismal Call and Discipleship</u>
• PK-CMLS-BCD Begins to understand that by Baptism, we are given new life as God's children (4-year old) • PK-CMLS-BCD Begins to understand that the Church has a mission given to her by Jesus Christ
<u>Call to Stewardship and Service</u>
• PK-CMLS-SS Begins to name our unique gifts that God provides us to help others (3-year old) • PK-CMLS-SS Participates in and reflects on service and how we can be Jesus for others (4-year old) & (kindergarten)
<u>Call to Ecumenism, Interfaith Dialogue, and the New Evangelization</u>
• PK-CMLS-EDNE Knows that God made all people, and we are called to be kind and loving to all people (3-year old) • PK-CMLS-EDNE Recognizes that Jesus calls us to serve God and all God's people (4-year old)

- PK-CMLS-EDNE Shows God's love for all people through words and actions (3-year old)