

Grade Three

Scripture

Students should each have individual access to a Bible in their classes. The New American Bible (NAB) translation is preferred, as this is the translation used in the Lectionary read at Mass.

By the end of the 3rd grade, students will have learned:

1. That we can come to know Jesus better when we read, study, and pray with Scripture. (2705-2708)
2. That God reveals himself through Sacred Scripture (the Bible) and Sacred Tradition.
Note to Catechist: Sacred Tradition is the truths of God handed on from Christ and the apostles that have been passed on by word of mouth as well as in writing. (85-87)
3. That the Bible includes many books. (120) **Note to Catechist: There are 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament, totaling 73. It should be noted that although there are many books, they are bound together as one book and “that one book is Christ.” (134, Jn 1:1)**
4. That the Bible is made up of two parts: the Old Testament (*before Jesus*) and the New Testament (*after the birth of Jesus*) and be able to locate them. (120-129) **Note to Catechist: Point out to the children that, like other books, the Bible has a table of contents which can be used to find the Old and New Testaments and their respective books. However, it should be noted that the numbering of pages is restarted when the New Testament begins.**
5. That the Old Testament is made up of writings about God’s relationship with his chosen people, the Israelites, and that it describes the time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. (62-64, 121-123)
6. That the Psalms are special Old Testament prayers of praise, petition, thanksgiving, and sorrow. (1176, 2585-2589)
7. That the Psalms are often set to music and are sung at Mass. (1156-1158)
8. That the New Testament is made up of writings about Jesus, whose teachings show us how to know and love God. The New Testament also outlines the formation of the early Church. (124-127)
9. That the first four books of the New Testament, the Gospels (the Good News) tell about the life and teaching of Jesus. (125-127)
10. That the four Gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. (120)
11. That the Paschal Mystery is revealed to us in the scriptural story of Jesus’ Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension. (610-618, 1085, 1103-1106, 1382)
12. That the parables are stories that Jesus used to teach about the Kingdom of God. The students must be able to name and briefly describe at least one parable. (543, 546, 605, 681, 1465, 2613, 2707)

Expressions of Faith:

- Being attentive to the scripture readings at Sunday Mass (or participating in children’s Liturgy of the Word).

- Talking about their favorite Bible stories with friends and family, distinguishing Old Testament stories from New Testament stories.
- Recalling in simple terms stories from the New Testament that show how Jesus forgives us and performs miracles for those who have faith, e.g., the Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32), the Ten Lepers (Lk 17:11-19), the healing of the Blind Man (Jn 9), and the Wedding at Cana. (Jn 2:1-11)
- Talking about the Psalms as Old Testament prayers, and praying or singing one.
- Referring to themselves as children of God, and referring to God as Father.
- Having a favorite parable and knowing that Jesus taught people by using parables.

Vocabulary Words:

Ascension	fear of the Lord	parable	Passion (Jesus')
Church	Israel	Paraclete	prophet
church	Kingdom of God	Paschal Mystery	

Scripture Stories – Third Grade:

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| 1. The Golden Rule | Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31 |
| 2. The Ten Commandments | Exodus 20:1-17, Deuteronomy 5:6-21 |
| 3. Wedding at Cana | John 2:1-11 |
| 4. The Prodigal Son | Luke 15:11-32 |
| 5. Story of Holy Week | Matthew 21:1-11, 26–28:8, Mark 11:1-11, 14–16:20
Luke 19:28-40, 22–24:12,
John 12:12-15, 12:1–13:38, 18:1–20:10 |
| 6. Kingdom of God Parables | Matthew 13, 15 |
| 7. Healing of the Blind Man | Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 10:46-52, Luke 18:35-43 |
| 8. The Greatest Commandment | Matthew 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-31 |
| 9. The Ten Lepers | Luke 17:11-19 |

Creed

By the end of the 3rd grade, students will have learned:

1. That God always loves us and is always faithful to us. (342)
2. That all people are made very good as God made them in his image and likeness. (356-361, 374)
3. The mystery of the Holy Trinity—one God in Three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (253)
4. That the Holy Spirit guides the Catholic Church. (737–741)
5. That the marks of the Church founded by Jesus Christ are: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. (811)
6. That the events of the Paschal Mystery are the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. (571, 1067)
7. That heaven, hell, and purgatory exist. **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. (1023-1037)

8. That Mary is the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. (509, 963)

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking about God as creator of all things, including all people.
- Sharing with family members that God is their heavenly Father, that he established rules to live by, and that he loves each person unconditionally.
- Sharing with family members that Mary is our spiritual mother and, because she is Jesus' Mother, she is Mother of the Church.
- Forgiving others for any injury received; trying not to hurt or offend others.
- Talking correctly about heaven, hell, and purgatory.

Vocabulary Words:

Catholic	Mother of God	Mystery	Purgatory
divine	Mother of the Church	Protestant	
marks			

Liturgy and Sacraments

By the end of the 3rd grade, students will have learned:

1. That a sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which he shares his divine life with us. This divine life is called grace. (1131, 1997)
2. That there are seven sacraments and be able to name them. (1113, 1210)
3. That Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation. (1212)
Note to Catechist: The Sacraments of Initiation bring us into full membership in the Church and “lay the foundations of every Christian life.” (1212)
4. That vocation is the call of Christ to all the baptized to follow him. (897, 941)
5. That the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are the Sacraments of Healing. (1421) **Note to Catechist: These sacraments continue Jesus’ healing and salvific ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit. In these sacraments the Church celebrates its mission of spiritual and physical healing. (1421)**
6. That the Sacraments of Holy Orders and of Matrimony are the Sacraments of Service. (1210-1211) **Note to Catechist: These sacraments are primarily directed toward the salvation of others. The recipients of these sacraments grow in holiness through their service to the People of God. (1534, USCCA 263)**
7. That the reception of the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony are a response of the faithful to a particular vocation within the Church. (1534)
8. That each sacrament has signs and symbols associated with it, and the students will be able to name them. (1234-1235, 1293-1296, 1333, 1449, 1559, 1597, 1661-1662)
9. That the Holy Eucharist, the center of our Catholic faith, is the greatest gift—Christ himself—that we can receive in this life. (1324-1325)

10. That we gather as a parish family at Mass to celebrate the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus (1362-72) **Note to Catechist: The Paschal Mystery is the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ, true God and true man. The Paschal Mystery is re-presented at every Mass. That is, we are present at the one, saving Paschal Mystery every time we are at Mass.**
11. That during the Mass, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, the bread and wine becomes the Eucharist. (1352-1353, 1412)
12. That the Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, under the appearance of bread and wine. (1374, 1413)
13. That the Eucharist, which is the Real Presence of Jesus, nourishes and strengthens us to follow him. (1392-1394) **Note to Catechist: Jesus is God, so it is true that he is present everywhere. When we refer to the “Real Presence,” we are referring to the Holy Eucharist as the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, under the appearances of bread and wine.**
14. That Jesus, through the priest, makes present his one sacrifice at every Mass. (1382, 1548-1549)
15. That the Mass is both a memorial of Jesus’ sacrifice and a sacred banquet in which we may receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. In doing so, we become more like him. (1348-1355, 1357, 1366, 1382) **Note to Catechist: Review with your students the teaching on reconciliation regarding the faithful needing to be in a state of sanctifying grace prior to receiving Eucharist.**
16. That we should receive the Eucharist often but at least once a year, if possible during the Easter Season. (1388-1389) **Note to Catechist: The Easter Season begins with the Easter Vigil on the night of Holy Saturday and continues until Pentecost.**
17. That we are to fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. (CIC 919) **Note to Catechist: Water and/or medicine do not break the Eucharistic fast.**
18. **That** Jesus is also present at Mass in the Word and in the assembly. (103-104, 1088, 1Thes 2:13)
19. That the Mass is made up of four individual parts: the Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the Concluding Rites. (GIRM 46-90)
20. That after reaching the age of reason (usually considered to be age 7), Catholics have an obligation to attend Mass every Sunday (weekend) and on every Holy Day of Obligation. Those who choose to miss Mass without a serious reason commit a grave sin. (2181) **Note to Catechist: Unfortunately, some children have no one to take them to Mass. In such a case, the children should know that they themselves are not guilty of committing sin. Sin always implies deliberate action or omission.**
21. That the Church has liturgical seasons. Students should understand the significance of each season and know the colors of the seasons. Note to Catechist: See Appendix 7 on Liturgy.
22. That the events of the Paschal Mystery are celebrated during the Easter Triduum which consists of **the Last Supper, Jesus’ suffering, death and burial, and the Resurrection. (1168-1169)**

Expressions of Faith:

- Participating at Mass each Sunday with family; singing, sitting, standing, bowing, and

kneeling at appropriate times.

- Celebrating the anniversary of their baptism with their family.
- Going to the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation with their parent(s).
- Explaining and observing the fast before receiving Holy Communion; receiving Holy Communion with understanding and reverence.
- Participating at home in family traditions that celebrate the liturgical seasons.
- Serving in a liturgical ministry at Mass, e.g., altar server, gift bearer, etc.
- Being attentive and reverent during Mass.

Vocabulary Words:

age of reason	Easter duty	liturgical year	obligation
assembly	fast	ministry	Triduum

Christian Morality

By the end of the 3rd 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 Jesus is our model for how to live as God's holy children. (1694, 1698)
3. 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)
4. That grace is God's free gift that makes us his holy children. (1996)
5. That sanctifying grace is a sharing in God's divine life and friendship. (1996, 1997, 2000)
6. That actual grace is help from God that enables us to do his will. (2000)
7. That the Ten Commandments are to be memorized, and the students will be able to recite them. **Note to Catechist: Use the traditional catechetical formula for the Ten Commandments; do not have the students express them in their own words. For example, the 8th Commandment is – "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (2464)**
8. That following the Ten Commandments expresses love of God and love of neighbor, and when we break the commandments we sin. (2055, 2067, 2072-2082)
9. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law. (1849)
10. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the person, but mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863) **Note to Catechist: "Deliberate and un-repentent venial sin disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin." (1863)**
11. That venial sins are forgiven by participation in the Holy Mass, the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, receiving Holy Communion, and celebrating the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. (1416, 1520) **Note to Catechist: "Without being strictly**

necessary, confession of everyday faults (venial sins) is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church.” (1458)

12. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose to do it anyway. (1859) **Note to Catechist: The above information is important to lay a foundation for a proper understanding of sin. It is important for the students to understand sin, but it is not necessary to dwell on this topic.**
13. That the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is the only ordinary way to recover sanctifying grace after one commits mortal sin. (1440, 1446, 1456, 1861)
14. That God gives each of us a conscience, which is like an inner voice, telling us what is good and what is evil. (1776)
15. That the power of good and God’s grace are stronger than evil. (681, 2850-2854)
16. That virtues are habits by which we do good. (1803, 1833-1834)
17. That there are three supernatural/theological (God-given) virtues, which are:
 - a. Faith: believing all that God reveals, because he can be depended on to tell the truth. (1814)
 - b. Hope: trusting that God will give us all the grace we need to be holy and get to heaven. (1817)
 - c. Charity: loving God above all else and loving our neighbors as ourselves for the love of God. (1822)
18. That when we follow the Ten Commandments, we respect the dignity of each person and lead a happy and holy life with God. (2052)
19. That they should examine their conscience in light of the Ten Commandments, the Greatest Commandment, and the Golden Rule. (2052-2055) **Note to Catechist: These can be found in the following scripture passages: Dt 5, Mt 7:12, Lv 19:18, Mt 22:37-40, and in article 2055 of the Catechism.**
20. That the seasons of Advent and Lent are times to strengthen the habits of prayer, penance, and almsgiving and are good times for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. (524, 540, 1438) **Note to Catechist: Common pastoral advice for the frequency with which we should go to Confession is about once per month, though the precept of the Church commands only a minimum of once per year (provided we have not committed serious sin). This precept is the minimum, not the ideal. It should also be taught that if one commits mortal sin, he or she should go to Confession as soon as possible.**

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking and singing about Jesus and how he is our model for behavior.
- Reciting the Ten Commandments.
- Asking the Holy Spirit and their patron saint(s) to help them in doing good.
- Talking about and distinguishing between venial and mortal sin and the need to “go to Confession” soon after any serious sin.
- Explaining that virtues are habits of doing good; expressing an intent and desire to practice faith, hope, and charity.

- Discussing with parents the need for an examination of conscience, making an examination of conscience, praying an act of contrition as part of their bedtime prayers.
- Saying “I’m sorry” when they hurt or offend someone; being quick and sincere in forgiving others who hurt them.

Vocabulary Words:

actual grace	humility	obedience	sanctifying grace
commission, sins of	mortal sins	omission, sins of	venial sins

Prayer

By the end of the 3rd grade, students will have learned:

1. That prayer is raising our minds and hearts to God, and through the Holy Spirit he continuously calls us to speak to him throughout the day. (2558-65, 2648, 2742, Acts 17:27)
2. That all prayer is a gift from God. (2559-2561, Jn 4:10)
3. That we can and should pray anywhere. (2691-2696)
4. That a Catholic church or chapel is the most sacred place for prayer because Jesus is present in the tabernacle. (2691, 2696)
5. That the Mass is our greatest prayer and that we need to participate in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. (1167, 2043, 2180-82)
6. The different forms of prayer: Blessing and Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving, and Praise. (2625-2643, Ps. 62:2-9)
7. How to pray the Rosary and know the twenty mysteries of the Rosary (five Joyful, five Luminous, five Sorrowful, and five Glorious) and how they center on Christ and his mother. (2678, 2708, cf. 1674) **Note to Catechist: See “Mysteries of the Rosary” in Appendix 4 — Text of Prayers.**
8. That an examination of conscience is a prayerful reflection of their thoughts, words, and actions in light of the Word of God and Jesus’ Law of Love, and to participate in a guided examination of conscience. (1454, 2052, 2055) **Note to Catechist: Be certain that students are told not to disclose sins or even faults in class. The only appropriate context for the disclosure of sins is with the priest the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.**
9. To recognize the saints as witnesses of faith whose examples and prayer lives will not only teach us about prayer but invite us to ask for their intercession in prayer. (2683, Heb 12:1)
10. That a novena is a prayer or prayers said over a period of nine days to God or to Mary or to one of the saints for a particular grace, intention, or need. **Note to Catechist: The tradition of praying a novena comes from the Gospel of St. Luke where, after the Ascension, the Lord tells the apostles and Mary to return to Jerusalem to “devote themselves to prayer” until the coming of the Spirit (Pentecost). Point out to the students that breaking a chain mail/email novena is not a sin.**
11. That Christians forgive those who hurt them, bear wrongs patiently, and pray for both the living and the dead. (2842-45)
12. To pray for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. (2258-62)

13. That the liturgical year and its great feasts provide a basic rhythm for their prayers. (1168-73)
14. To recite the Apostles' Creed, Hail Holy Queen, Act of Contrition, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and Grace before Meals.

Expressions of Faith:

- Participating reverently at Mass.
- Praying the Rosary with family members.
- Examining their conscience as a prayerful reflection on their thoughts, words, and actions, and praying an act of contrition.
- Praying the different forms of prayer: Blessing and Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving, and Praise.
- Praying the Grace before and after Meals.
- Praying morning and bedtime prayers.
- Participating in a novena with family members.
- Talking to God frequently in personal prayer.
- Having a special place at home (e.g., their room or a place in the family room) as their special prayer place.
- Recognizing that changes in the colors in the church correspond with changes in the liturgical seasons.

Vocabulary Words:

novena	praise	sorrow	thanksgiving
petition			

Prayers to be Learned — by end of Grade Three

Angel of God [K]	Act of Contrition [2]	<i>Apostle's Creed</i>
Glory Be [K]	Fatima Prayer [2]	<i>Hail Holy Queen</i>
Sign of the Cross [K]	Grace after Meals [2]	<i>Novena</i>
Grace before Meals [1]		
Hail Mary [1]		
Our Father [1]		

Expectations of Parents

Grade Three parents:

1. Attend Sunday Mass and actively participate in Mass responses with your child.
2. Celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (“go to Confession”); take the whole family.
3. Make it a family priority for your son/daughter to attend faith formation classes.
4. Help your child experience and observe the work of parish lay ministers and community volunteers.

5. Involve your child/family in some form of shared parish/community service.
6. Celebrate holy days, holidays, birthdays, anniversaries of sacraments, etc. in your home with special decorations, family traditions, and rituals that express your Christian beliefs.
7. Read/tell Bible stories and listen to your child share these stories in his/her own words. Make sure your child has a Catholic Bible of his/her own. (New American Bible or Revised Standard Version – Catholic Edition are approved translations.)
8. Provide a rosary to your child. If the rosary is not blessed, let your child be present if possible when a priest or deacon blesses the rosary. Pray at least one decade of the Rosary with your child each week. (Pray the Rosary on a different day of the week each week so your child will begin to associate the mysteries of the Rosary with their proper day: Joyful Mysteries—Monday and Saturday, Sorrowful Mysteries—Tuesday and Friday, Luminous Mysteries—Thursday, and Glorious Mysteries—Sunday and Wednesday.)
9. Create special prayer times.
10. Bless your child—saying a short prayer while tracing the Sign of the Cross on his/her head.
11. Praying a family novena with your child (a novena at your child’s level).
12. 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.
13. Participate as a family in “whole church” (intergenerational) parish activities when offered.