

Grade Four

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 4th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the words “Bible” and “Sacred Scripture” are used interchangeably.
2. That the Bible is God’s Word. (81, 101, 102, 135)
3. That all Scripture is inspired by God. (105-107) **Note to Catechist: God inspired human writers with the truth, and the writers expressed that truth in human words and stories. Therefore, although some details of the stories may not be historically accurate according to modern standards, God’s truth is in the message conveyed. Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching solidly, faithfully, and without error that truth which God wanted put into sacred writings for the sake of salvation. (DV 11)**
4. That the Bible is made up of two parts: the Old Testament (before Jesus) and the New Testament (after the birth of Jesus). (120-129)
5. That there are 73 books in the Bible – 46 Old Testament and 27 New Testament. (120)
6. That the Bible is a collection of sacred books, which are organized into chapters and verses, and be able to locate scripture passages in the Bible. (120) **Note to Catechist: Encourage children to use the table of contents in the Bible to help locate the various books of Sacred Scripture.**
7. That the 46 books of the Old Testament are categorized as follows: Pentateuch (*5 books*), Historical (16 books), Wisdom (7 books), and Prophets (*18 books*). **Note to Catechist: See Appendix 1a — Scripture Books of the Bible for a listing of books by category.**
8. That the 27 books of the New Testament are categorized as follows: the Gospels (4 books), the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles (21 books) and the Book of Revelation. **Note to Catechist: See Appendix 1a — Scripture Books of the Bible for a listing of books by category.**
9. That the Ten Commandments represent God’s covenant with the Israelites and their promise to keep God’s laws. (205-207, 210-211, 2056-2063)
10. That in the Old Testament the prophets prepare God’s Chosen People, the Israelites, for the Savior/Messiah. (62-64, 121-123)
11. That in the Gospels we learn from Jesus how to live our lives. (124-127, 133-134, 141)
12. That Jesus was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth, and died in Jerusalem. (Mt 2:1, Lk 2:7, Mt 2:23, Lk 2:40, Mt 21:1-16, Jn 12:12) **Note to Catechist: As an activity, have students locate these three cities on a map, or copy a map of Israel and place these three cities on the map.**

in a body. This is clearly explained in the catechism citations listed above. Please read.

6. That the two main powers of the soul are: intellect, by which we think, judge, and understand and will, by which we freely choose good or evil. (1705–1706)
7. That temptation is a struggle for everyone, but God’s grace is always present to help us choose good. (654)
8. That evil entered the world through the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. We call this original sin. (407-409)
9. That Mary was conceived without original sin. This is called the Immaculate Conception. From the first moment of her conception in her mother’s womb, Mary was free from sin and full of grace. (490-492)
10. That Mary never sinned throughout her life. She is the Church’s perfect example of faith, hope, and love of God and love of neighbor. (493- 494)
11. That the Assumption celebrates Mary being taken up by God to heaven, body and soul, when the course of her earthly life was completed. (966, 974) **Note to Catechist: The Church doesn’t officially teach whether or not Mary died.**
12. That the Church was instituted (begun) by Jesus Christ, and he appointed St. Peter to be its visible head. The Bishop of Rome (the pope) is the successor of St. Peter. (763-766, 815-816) **Note to Catechist: When visiting St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette, notice the mural at the back of the sanctuary, which depicts Jesus handing Peter the keys to the Kingdom and establishing the Church. The Latin saying is the Scripture passage Mt 16:16-20. This can be found on the St. Peter website under the “Tour” section. <<http://www.stpetercathedral.org/TH/tour/tour.htm>>**
13. That we are members of the universal Church, of the diocese, and of our own parish. Students should know the name of the pope, the diocesan bishop, the pastor of their parish, and the first bishop of our diocese, Bishop Frederic Baraga. (See Appendix 3 on the bishops of our diocese.) **Note to Catechist: Being sensitive to your parish realities, you may also want the children to know the names of associate pastors, deacons, pastoral coordinators, pastoral associates, and retired priests serving your parish.**
14. That the Communion of Saints is made up of all of the baptized persons on earth, all of the saints in heaven, and all of those in purgatory. (954-959)
15. That all the tenets of our faith are found in the Apostles’ Creed. (194, 196)

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking about God as creator of all things, including all people.
- Recognizing Jesus as fully man and fully God.
- Talking about the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Trinity, who is our Advocate and will help us even if we sin.
- Sharing with family members their understanding that the Church is all of the Christian faithful (not the building) known as the Body of Christ, with Jesus as the head.
- Describing faith as something they believe to be true even though they can not see it or prove it.
- Talking about Mary and the saints.

Vocabulary Words:

bishop	deacon	pope	Vatican
cardinal	Immaculate Conception	reason	will
Creed	intellect	religious	

Liturgy and Sacraments

By the end of the 4th 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 the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, bring us into full membership in the Church. (1212) **Note to Catechist: The Sacraments of Initiation “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 Healing—Penance and Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick—continue Jesus’ healing ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit. (1421) **Note to Catechist: In these sacraments, the Church celebrates its mission of spiritual and physical healing.**
6. That the Sacraments of Service—Holy Orders and Matrimony—are primarily directed toward the salvation of others. (1533-1535) **Note to Catechist: 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 be able to name each of them. (1234-1235, 1293-1296, 1333, 1449, 1559, 1597, 1661-1662)
9. That the Holy Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. It is at the center of our Catholic Faith. (1074, 1324-1325, 1374, 1413)
10. That the Eucharist, which is the Real Presence of Jesus, nourishes and strengthens us to follow Jesus. (1378-1379)
11. That Jesus, through the priest, makes present his one sacrifice at every Mass. (1382)
12. That the Mass is also a sacred banquet at which, if we are in a state of grace (i.e., free of mortal sin), we may receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. In doing so, we become more like him. (1382)
13. That anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation before receiving Communion. (1415)
14. That we are to fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. (1387, CIC 919) **Note to Catechist: Water and/or medicine do not break the Eucharistic fast.**
15. 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)
16. That the parts of the Introductory Rites are the Processional song, the Greeting, the Penitential Act, the *Kyrie*, the *Gloria*, and the Collect. (GIRM 46) **Note to Catechist: These parts are for a “regular” Sunday Mass. Certain celebrations of the Mass may**

vary from this; for example, a funeral Mass does not have a Penitential Act. On Sunday Masses during Lent, the *Gloria* is omitted.

17. That the parts of the Liturgy of the Word are the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel Acclamation, Gospel, Homily, Profession of Faith, and the Universal Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful). (GIRM 55) **Note to Catechist: These parts are for a “regular” Sunday Mass. Certain celebrations of the Mass may vary from this; for example, Masses on most weekdays do not include a Second Reading or the Profession of Faith.**
18. That the parts of the Liturgy of the Eucharist are Preparation of the Altar and Gifts, Prayer over the Offerings, Eucharistic Prayer, and the Communion Rite (which includes the Lord’s Prayer and the Sign of Peace). (GIRM 72)
19. That the parts of the Concluding Rites are Greeting, Blessing, and Dismissal. (GIRM 90)
20. That the Church has liturgical seasons, be able to name them in order, understand the significance of each season, and know the colors of the seasons. (Appendix 7) **Note to Catechist: Advent begins the liturgical year.**

Expressions of Faith:

- Participating at the Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation with family, singing and responding when appropriate.
- Showing reverence for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- Serving in a liturgical ministry at Mass, e.g., altar server, gift bearer, etc.
- Expressing sorrow for their sins (failures to do God’s will) and praying for forgiveness.
- Participating with family in devotions at church.

Vocabulary Words:

Agnus Dei	disposition, proper	gifts	Lord's Prayer
Assumption of Mary	fast, Eucharistic	homily	Original Sin

Christian Morality

By the end of the 4th 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 Jesus is our model for how to live the Christian life as God’s holy children. (1694, 1698)

4. That virtues are good spiritual habits. (1803)
5. That the cardinal virtues are fortitude, justice, prudence, and temperance. The theological virtues are faith, hope and charity. (1806-1809, 1814-1829, 1834-44) **Note to Catechist: A good way to teach the students about these virtues is to share the stories of those who have experienced them in their lives, especially the saints.**
6. That our conscience is an “inner voice”, aided by grace, which helps us to choose what is right. (1776, 1785-1786)
7. That actual grace is from God, and helps us respond to him in particular instances. (2000)
8. That sanctifying grace is our participation in the life of God. (2023-2024)
9. That we must die in a state of sanctifying grace to enter into heaven, and that the best way to make sure that we die in a state of sanctifying grace is to live consistently in sanctifying grace. **Note to Catechist: It is important to stress to students that attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and frequent celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation are crucial to Life in Christ, i.e., living in a state of sanctifying grace. When teaching, it is important to remember that people are not responsible for that which is impossible. So, for example, if a child has no reasonable means by which to get to Mass — for instance, their parents refuse to take them or to let them go — that child is not responsible for missing Mass, though the parents would be.**
10. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God’s law. (1849-1850)
11. 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)**
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 it anyway. (1859)
13. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that we know might lead us to sin. Occasions of sin are different for every person. (1853)
14. That prayer helps us in times of temptation. (2846-2849)
15. That the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation was given to us by Jesus. In it we ask for and receive forgiveness of our sins from God through the priest. (1444, 1461) **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.**
16. That the Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus’ preaching. (1716, 1717)
17. That the Ten Commandments are to be memorized, and the students will be able to recite them in order. **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)**
18. That the works of mercy are loving actions that help our neighbors in their spiritual and bodily needs. (2447)

19. That the seven spiritual works of mercy are: (2447)
- a. Admonish sinners.
 - b. Instruct the ignorant.
 - c. Counsel the doubtful.
 - d. Comfort the afflicted.
 - e. Bear wrongs patiently.
 - f. Forgive offenses.
 - g. Pray for the living and the dead.
20. That the seven corporal works of mercy are: (2447)
- a. Feed the hungry.
 - b. Give drink to the thirsty.
 - c. Clothe the naked.
 - d. Shelter the homeless.
 - e. Visit the sick.
 - f. Visit the imprisoned.
 - g. Bury the dead.

Expressions of Faith:

- Practicing the cardinal virtues of fortitude, justice, prudence, and temperance with family and peers.
- Acknowledging that we serve God by serving others.
- Talking about and living by the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, with Jesus as their model.
- Talking with parents about how to best form their conscience, how to recognize and avoid/overcome temptations. Listening more and more to their “inner voice.”
- Regularly participating in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation with other family members.

- Taking responsibility for doing good and avoiding evil—choosing good television programs, movies, books, music, computer games, and Internet sites.
- Following the Golden Rule in their lives.
- Voluntarily helping neighbors and other family members.

Vocabulary Words:

Cardinal Virtues	mercy	occasion of sin	Virtue
consequences	morality	social justice/teachings	virtue, theological
disposes	morals	temptation	

Prayer

By the end of the 4th grade, students will have learned:

1. To define prayer and identify the basic forms of prayer (Blessing and Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving, Praise), and give examples of each. (2558-65, 2626-49)
Note to Catechist: Examples of each of the prayer types: Blessing and Adoration—

Prayer before meals; Petition—Our Father; Intercession—Angel of God, Hail Mary; Thanksgiving—Prayer after Meals, Praise—Glory Be.

2. To give examples of communal and private prayer.
3. 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)
4. The parts of the Mass and all prayer responses, so as to be able to participate in the Mass more fully.
5. The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. (184-185)
6. The Act of Contrition and will understand that we say it to express to God our sorrow for sin. (2631)
7. How to participate in different kinds of prayers and devotions, for example: prayers to saints, litanies, Stations of the Cross, etc. (2688) **Note to Catechist: A litany is a form of prayer in which a standard response is given to numerous variable invocations, e.g., Prayers of the Faithful (General Intercessions), Kyrie, Agnus Dei, Litany of the Saints. Examples of litanies are included in Appendix 4 — Text of Prayers. Information about the Stations of the Cross is provided in Appendix 5 — Stations of the Cross.**
8. How to incorporate prayer into daily life in imitation of Jesus. (2607-16, 2757)
9. How to pray the Rosary. They will 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)
10. The Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.
11. To pray as a class for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. (2258-62)

Expressions of Faith:

- Participating reverently at Mass.
- Praying the Rosary with family members.
- Praying Grace before and after Meals.
- Praying morning and bedtime prayers.
- Praying the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.
- Participating in various devotions, e.g., Stations of the Cross and novenas; praying to their patron saints and guardian angel.
- Examining their conscience as a prayerful reflection on their thoughts, words, and actions, and praying an act of contrition.
- Having a special place at home (e.g., their room or a place in the family room) as their special prayer place.
- Praying for the needs of others, especially family members.

Vocabulary Words:

Adoration	devotion(s)	intercession	
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Prayers to be Learned — by end of Grade Four

Angel of God [K]	Act of Contrition [2]	<i>Act of Faith</i>
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Glory Be [K]	Fatima Prayer [2]	<i>Act of Hope</i>
Sign of the Cross [K]	Grace after Meals [2]	<i>Act of Love</i>
Grace before Meals [1]	Apostle's Creed [3]	<i>Litany</i>
Hail Mary [1]	Hail Holy Queen [3]	<i>Nicene Creed</i>
Our Father [1]	Novena [3]	

Expectations of Parents

Grade Four 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”) regularly; take the whole family.
3. Make it a family priority for your son/daughter to attend faith formation classes.
4. Include praying and reading the Bible and talking about Bible stories in daily family life.
5. Help your child learn and understand the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.
6. Involve your child in planning and carrying out a Christian service project.
7. Ask your child to occasionally lead the family in prayer.
8. Celebrate other forms of Church prayer with your child: for example, Advent, Lent, and Stations of the Cross.
9. Pray a family Rosary (all five decades) with your child each week. (Pray the Rosary on different days of the week so your child will associate the four sets of 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.)
10. Pray a family novena for an intention chosen by your child.
11. 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.
12. Encourage your son/daughter to take a more active role in the parish’s life and ministry, in keeping with the age and abilities of your child.
13. Participate as a family in “whole church” (intergenerational) parish activities when offered.