

Grade Two

Scripture

By the end of 2nd grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Bible is God's word. (81, 101, 102, 135)
2. That the Bible teaches us who God is and who we are. (279, 286-290) **Note to Catechist: Use the example of how a family photo album tells the story of a family and how the Bible tells our story as a people of faith.**
3. That the Bible is made up of two sections: the Old Testament (*before Jesus*) and the New Testament (*after the birth of Jesus*). (120-129)
4. 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)**
5. That the readings at Mass come from the Bible and include passages from both the Old and the New Testaments. (103, 127, 1088, 1096, 1154-1155) **Note to Catechist: The first reading is always from the Old Testament, except in the Easter Season when it is from Acts of the Apostles. The second reading is always from the New Testament excluding the four Gospels.**
6. That in the Old Testament God began revealing himself to us and promised to be always faithful to us. (122, 346) **Note to Catechist: These promises are elevated to covenants, which are solemn oaths between God and human beings.**
7. That God gave the Ten Commandments to his Chosen People through Moses. (205-207, 210-211, 2056-2063)
8. That the Gospels are part of the New Testament and tell us about the life and teachings of Jesus. (125-127) **Note to Catechist: Be sure that when teaching about the Gospels the children hear stories where Jesus performs miracles and shows mercy to the sinners.**
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. The principal themes or concepts of each of the following:
 - Psalm 145 (the goodness and greatness of God),
 - Psalm 104 (praising God the creator),
 - Story of Jonah (the need to listen to God),
 - the Burning Bush (call of Moses and God's self-revelation),
 - Ten Commandments (love of God and love of neighbor),
 - Prodigal Son (God is merciful, loving, forgiving),
 - Wedding at Cana (Jesus' first miracle),
 - the Zacchaeus Story and the Story of the Lost Sheep (God, the Good Shepherd, seeks to save the lost),
 - Jesus Feeding 5,000 with Loaves and Fishes (Jesus satisfies our physical and spiritual hunger),
 - the Ten Lepers (need for gratitude for God's blessings).

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.
- Talking about how God interacts with his people, e.g., the Fall, the Covenant with Noah, God’s choosing Abraham, and God’s making the Israelites his chosen people.
- 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, the Ten Lepers, and the Wedding at Cana.
- Re-telling during the Easter Season, the story of the Passover and of the Last Supper.
- Referring to themselves as children of God, and referring to God as Father.
- Talking and singing about God’s love and their need to love God.

Vocabulary Words:

Abel	Devil	inspired	Messiah
apostles	disciple	Jonah	miracles
Cain	faithful	Luke	Passover
Cana	Gospel	Mark	psalm
child of God	Holy Land	Matthew	Satan
covenant			Yahweh

Scripture Stories – Second Grade:

1. Crossing the Red Sea Exodus 14:10-31
2. Jonah and the Whale Jonah 1 and 2
3. Psalm 32
4. The Ten Commandments Exodus 20:1-17, Deuteronomy 5:6-21
5. Passover Exodus 12
6. The Fall Genesis 3
7. The Baptism of Jesus Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11 Luke 3:21-22, John 1:31-34
8. The Last Supper Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-20
9. The Easter Story Matthew 26–28:8, Mark 14–16:20, Luke 22–24:12, John 12:12-15, 13:1-38, 18:1–20:10
10. Jesus Feeding the Multitudes John 6:1-13
11. Wedding at Cana John 2:1-11
12. The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32
13. Pentecost Story Acts 2:1-41
14. The Greatest Commandment Matthew 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-31
15. The Ten Lepers Luke 17:11-19

Creed

By the end of 2nd grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. This is the Holy Trinity. (253)
2. That the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, became man while remaining God. (464)
3. That God the Holy Spirit lives in those who are in God's grace. (736)
4. That we need the Holy Spirit's help to do good and to avoid evil. (736)
5. That the death and resurrection of Jesus is the source of the forgiveness of our sins and of our salvation. (654)
6. That God wants everyone to be happy with him forever in heaven. Heaven is where we have everlasting joy and happiness with God, our Blessed Mother Mary, the holy angels, and all the saints. (1023, 1053, 1831) **Note to Catechist: Explain that the saints include all the human beings who are with God in heaven. Some of these are canonized saints, but most of the saints are not canonized. However, they are still saints. (1024, 1721)**
7. That the holy angels are powerful beings who are pure spirits and who give glory to God without ceasing and serve as his messengers. (329-331)
8. That each person has a guardian angel assigned by God to protect him/her. (336)
9. That Satan and the other fallen angels are in hell. We call the fallen angels devils or demons. Satan and the other devils try to tempt us to do evil. God does not want any human being to go to hell. (391–395, 1037) **Note to Catechist: When using the term "hell" in referring to the place where the devil and the fallen angels live, the children need to know it is not bad language.**
10. That Mary is the model for all Christians because she is the Mother of Jesus and because she always did God's will with faith and trust. (494) **Note to Catechist: Whenever teaching about the Saints, the Blessed Mother, or Biblical heroes, point out that they responded to God's call (vocation).**

Expressions of Faith:

- Sharing with family members about God as Father of everyone and creator of all things.
- Illustrating the three persons of the Trinity using drama, art, music, technology, etc.
- Talking about how God invites us into his heavenly kingdom and that the Holy Spirit (God's love) will help us do good and avoid evil.
- 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:

Apostles' Creed	faith	heaven	salvation
Blessed Mother	grace	hell	

Liturgy and Sacraments

By the end of 2nd 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)
Note to Catechist: To shorten this so as to make it easier for young children to memorize, one could simply have the students memorize the following: *A sacrament is a sign, instituted by Christ, that gives grace.*
2. That Jesus instituted (started) all of the sacraments. (1114)
3. That Baptism is the gateway to all other sacraments and is the first of the three Sacraments of Initiation. (1212-1213)
4. 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)
5. The signs, symbols, and sacramentals associated with the Sacraments of Initiation. (1234-1245, 1293-1296, 1333)
6. That when we choose to do wrong, we have sinned against God, whom we should love above all things, and against our neighbor. (1849, 1850)
7. That Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation to forgive our sins and to give us grace to do good and avoid future sins. (1446)
8. That the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation grants forgiveness and “wipes out” both mortal and venial sins. (1496)
9. That they must receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation before receiving First Holy Communion. (CIC 914)
10. That anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion must be in a state of grace. (1415)
11. That Jesus gives us grace, love, and mercy in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. God wants us to receive these sacraments frequently. (1484, 2837)
12. That when we gather at Mass we listen to God’s Word contained in the Bible, celebrate what Jesus has done for us, and receive his gift of the Holy Eucharist, which is his Body and Blood. (1348-1355, 1408)
13. That the Last Supper was the first Mass and that Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with the apostles the night before he died. (1323)
14. That during the Last Supper (celebrated on Holy Thursday), Jesus changed bread and wine into his Body and Blood. (1323)
15. 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.**
16. That Jesus, through the priest, makes present his one sacrifice at every Mass. (1382)
17. That the Mass is both a memorial of Jesus’ sacrifice and a sacred banquet in which, if we are in a state of grace, we may receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. In doing so, we become more like him. (1366, 1382)
18. That the Holy Eucharist, which is the Real Presence of Jesus, nourishes and strengthens us to follow Jesus. (1392-1394) **Note to Catechist: Jesus is God, so it is true that as God he is really present everywhere. However, when we refer to the *Real Presence*,**

we are referring to Jesus' substantial, incarnate presence in the Holy Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—fully God and fully man. *The Holy Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, under the appearances of bread and wine.* This formula in italics is a good one to have the second graders memorize.

The vast majority of second-grade students will be, with practice, very capable of memorizing it and repeating it. Do not worry if they do not completely understand it. Two points to be made here: (1) Nobody on this earth fully understands it, or it would cease to be a Mystery! (2) While we cannot fully understand this mystery, we do come to a greater understanding of it over time provided we practice the faith, especially by regular Mass attendance and reception of the sacraments and through on-going catechetical formation.

19. That the time of consecration during the Mass is when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus. (1376) **Note to Catechist: This is a second grade definition of transubstantiation.**
20. That the Holy Eucharist is at the center of our Catholic Faith. (1324)
21. 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)
22. How to participate actively in Mass: when to sit, stand, kneel and bow. (GIRM 42-45)
23. To recognize the parts of the church, especially those items used in the celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments, e.g., ciborium, chalice, vestments (alb, stole, cincture, dalmatic, chasuble), baptismal font, altar, lectern (ambo), lectionary, tabernacle, et. al. **Note to Catechist: This is most effectively taught while conducting a tour of the church.**
24. 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, See Appendix 7 on Liturgy) **Note to Catechist: Be sure that your prayer space/liturgical space reflect the color of the liturgical season.**

Expressions of Faith:

- Participating at the Mass each Sunday with family; sitting, standing, kneeling, singing, and bowing at the appropriate times.
- Expressing love for family members, forgiving them as necessary, and saying they are sorry when they hurt someone else.
- Preparing for and receiving the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for the first time.
- Preparing for and receiving the Holy Eucharist for the first time.
- Talking about and displaying the various colors of the liturgical seasons.
- Blessing themselves correctly with holy water as they enter and leave the church.
- Displaying awareness that the church is God's house by not running or speaking out of turn.
- Being attentive and reverent in church.

Vocabulary Words:

alb	Communion, Holy	Host	sanctuary
altar	corporal	lector (reader)	sanctuary lamp
ambo	dalmatic	Liturgy of the Eucharist	server, altar
Blood of Christ	Easter Vigil	Liturgy of the Word	sign
Body of Christ	feast	Memorial	solemnity
chalice	font, baptismal	paten	stole
chasuble	Good Friday	purificator	symbol
ciborium	Holy Thursday	Real Presence	tabernacle
cincture			vestments

Christian Morality

By the end of 2nd 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 of love and goodness. (520, 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 a free gift from God that helps us to be holy. (1999, 2021-2024) **Note to Catechist: Be sure to differentiate between “grace” and the prayer that we sometimes call Grace before Meals.**
5. That we first received the life of God in our souls when we were baptized. (1999, 1266)
6. That original sin was the first sin committed by Adam and Eve and continues to be passed on to all human beings. (397-406)
7. That the greatest gift that Adam and Eve lost as a result of the original sin was the life of God in their souls. (399)
8. That sin is choosing to do wrong and failing to do good; that sin displeases God, hurts us, and hurts others as well. (1849-1850, 1871-1872, Mt 25:31-46)
9. That God does not stop loving us, even if we have sinned, and we too should love sinners. (218-220, 277, 1850)
10. That when we sin and are sorry for our sins, we can be forgiven by asking for God’s forgiveness. With the help of God’s grace and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we can begin again to follow Jesus and do what is right. (982, 1468)
11. That no sin is too big for God to forgive. (982, 1446)
12. That while all sin displeases God, there are some sins which are less serious (venial sins) and some that are very serious (mortal sins). (1855)

13. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863)
14. That there are three conditions for a sin to be mortal: (1857)
 - a. The bad thing done must be something serious in itself. (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.**
15. That when we die, we need to be in the state of grace to go to heaven. (1129, 1864)
16. That God gave Moses the Ten Commandments; these are his laws by which to live. (2056, 2064, Dt 5:6-21)
17. 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)**
18. 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)
19. That the Greatest Commandment summarizes the Ten Commandments, and that by keeping this two-fold, single commandment, we are keeping the Ten Commandments. (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.**
20. That the Ten Commandments are to be used to examine their conscience. (1776) **Note to Catechist: Your conscience is the “inner voice” that God gives you to know right from wrong. (2072) Be aware that the words “inner voice” might be incorrectly understood by the children to mean some kind of audible voice. Help them to know that the “inner voice” is not something they can hear with their ears, but only with their hearts, i.e., it is “something you know deep inside.”**

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking and singing about Jesus and how he is our model for behavior.
- Explaining that God lives in us, that his grace helps us to be holy.
- Recognizing that doing wrong displeases God and hurts others.
- Asking for forgiveness and forgiving others without being prompted by an adult.
- Asking the Holy Spirit and their patron saint(s) to help them in doing good.
- Reciting the Ten Commandments.
- Discussing and distinguishing between venial sins and more serious (mortal) sins.
- Talking about their “inner voice,” their conscience.

Vocabulary Words:

conscience	examination of conscience	saint	sin
evil			

Prayer

By the end of 2nd grade, students will have learned:

1. That prayer is conversation with God and that we should talk to him every day. (2559)
2. That we can and should pray anywhere. (2691-2696)
3. That a Catholic church or chapel is the most sacred place for prayer because Jesus is present in the tabernacle. (2691, 2696)
4. That God hears our prayers but that they may not be answered in the way we want them to be answered. (2734-2737)
5. That we can ask Mary and the saints to pray for us, especially in times of need or temptation. (2617-19, 2622, 2673-79, 2682, 2683-84, 2692)
6. That the Mass is the greatest prayer, the center of the Church's life. (1343, 1324)
7. To participate in Mass reverently. (Tradition, 1324, 1343)
8. That the Lord's Prayer was given to us by Jesus. (2765)
9. To recite the Act of Contrition.
10. To participate in the Rosary. (2678, 2708, cf. 1674)
11. That an examination of conscience helps them recognize when they have sinned, and to participate in a guided examination of conscience. (1454) **Note to Catechist: As they prepare for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, be certain that students are told not to disclose their sins or even moral faults in class. The appropriate context for the disclosure of sins is only to the priest in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.**
12. To thank God for the gifts that he has given us. (2637-38, 2648)

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking to God frequently in prayer.
- Exhibiting gratitude and thankfulness to God and to others for all the things in their life.
- Participating reverently at Mass.
- Praying the prayers of Grace before and after Meals.
- Praying the Rosary with family members.
- Examining their conscience and praying an act of contrition.
- Praying the responses during Mass.

Vocabulary Words:

	<i>[no new vocabulary words here]</i>		
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Prayers to be Learned — by end of Grade Two

Angel of God [K]	Grace before Meals [1]	<i>Act of Contrition</i>
Glory Be [K]	Hail Mary [1]	<i>Fatima Prayer</i>
Sign of the Cross [K]	Our Father [1]	<i>Grace after Meals</i>

Expectations of Parents

Grade Two 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. Review and pray with your child the traditional prayers learned in Grade One (the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Grace before Meals) and Grade Two (Act of Contrition, Fatima Prayer, and Grace after Meals).
5. Provide a rosary to your child. If possible, let your child be present when a priest or deacon blesses the rosary. Pray at least one decade of the Rosary with your child each week.
6. 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.
7. Celebrate faith-related rituals in your home, i.e., Advent wreath, blessing of the Christmas tree, making Lenten pretzels, etc. Involve your child in the crafts, singing, and related activities.
8. Participate with your child in some parish “meals” — picnics, festivals, potluck dinners.
9. Pray spontaneously as a family at meals and/or bedtime, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.
10. Talk about God as part of your daily family life.
11. Encourage and support your son/daughter in the Confirmation/Eucharist preparation.
12. Read/tell Bible stories to your child.
13. Participate as a family in “whole church” (intergenerational) parish activities when offered.