

Intermediate Grades 3-5

Intermediate Children:

- Learn faith identity through community customs and traditions.
- See God as judge and lawgiver due to their sense of fair play.
- Tend to be conformists and identify strongly with their peer group.
- Experience the beginnings of sexual awareness.
- Begin to think abstractly and have longer attention spans.
- Are curious and independent.
- Have a wide range of interests.

Practical Tips:

Attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. When possible, attend as a family.

Say a prayer before family meals.

Plan a special day with your child where you celebrate the gifts he or she brings to the family.

Periodically watch your child's favorite TV shows and discuss the values presented in the light of our Catholic faith tradition.

Share with your child the story of a saint who is special to you.

As a family, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis especially during Advent and Lent.

Set aside a specific time each week to review with your child what is being taught in his or her religion class.

Participate with your child in a parish-sponsored service project, such as the Lenten Rice Bowl, a clothing drive, or a parish potluck.

Identify one or more chores that your child could do that would be a real service to the family.

Invite your child to talk about how God is a part of his or her life.

Prayers and Practices:

Sign of the Cross

Glory Be Prayer

Spontaneous Prayer

Nicene Creed

Liturgy of the Word

Order of Mass

Stations of the Cross

The Lord's Prayer

Meal Prayers

Act of Contrition

Ten Commandments

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Sacraments

Benediction

Hail Mary

Guardian Angel Prayer

Apostles' Creed

Reconciliation

Communion

Mysteries of the Rosary

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Creed

Family: The willingness of parents to grow in their understanding of faith issues models for their children the belief that growth in faith is a lifelong process. Parents seek opportunities to share their faith with other adults as well as their children. Parents take the time necessary to answer informal faith questions as they arise or research unknown answers with the child, using scripture or the Catechism of the Catholic Church when appropriate. Families actively participate in the life of the parish.

Parish/School: The parish community provides programs that support the faith and role of parents. Opportunities such as retreats, Scripture study, and adult education sessions on aspects of the Catholic tradition are good examples. Catechists communicate to parents ways in which the systemic presentation of the faith can be reinforced at home through family discussion and activities.

Sacraments

Family: Parents help to deepen their children's understanding of Sacraments by regular participation in sacramental celebrations followed by conversation about the experience. Participation in communal reconciliation services and other opportunities for reconciliation and weekly Sunday liturgy are particularly important for the intermediate child and his or her family.

Parish/School: The parish nurtures the grade school child's affinity for ritual by offering regular opportunities for active involvement and a sense of inclusion. Catechetical sessions teach children the meaning of symbolic action and how to worship with respect.

Christian Living

Family: Parents help their children learn to make right choices through dialogue about routine decisions. Respect and appreciation for ourselves and others are communicated when parents show respect and appreciation for their children. Participation in the responsibilities of family life teaches intermediate students the value of Christian service and wholesome moral life.

Parish/School: Consistent messages from the parish regarding Christian stewardship (time, talent and treasure) support and empower families. Structured opportunities for families to participate in direct service to the poor, elderly, or infirm are available. Education in complex moral issues is provided for parents.

Prayer

Family: Parents speak about the importance of prayer in life when their children see them pray. The prayer life of children is enriched by praying at home and at regular celebrations of liturgy and sacraments.

Parish/School: Catechists broaden the experience of intermediate children by offering a variety of prayer forms, including traditional Catholic prayers, in the classroom. Large group prayer services help children learn the value of communal prayer (i.e. Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, and Marian Devotions).