

Primary Grades K-2

Primary Children:

- Form an image of God from the important people in their lives.
- Need to have concepts and facts presented one at a time.
- Experience God's love through prayer and interaction with others.
- Enjoy song, ritual, and humor.
- Need to learn cooperation with peers.
- Require a variety of activities due to a short attention span.
- Need to learn in an atmosphere of trust and personal acceptance.

Practical Tips:

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

Establish consistent prayer times, for example, before meals and at bedtime.

Celebrate your child's baptismal anniversary with a special celebration.

Help your child memorize the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Sign of the Cross.

Determine specific ways to say, "I am sorry" and to make up when things go wrong in the family.

Place a family Bible in a special location in the home.

Read stories to your child from a children's Bible.

Decorate your dinner table with simple symbols of the Church season: Advent wreath, cross during Lent or a candle at Easter.

Plan a family meal to which you invite someone who may be lonely.

Make treats to share with classmates on a special holy day.

Take care of a garden or house plant as a way of showing respect for God's creation.

Prayers and Practices:

Sign of the Cross

Glory Be Prayer

Spontaneous Prayer

Ten Commandments

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Lord's Prayer

Meal Prayers

Act of Contrition

Reconciliation

Hail Mary

Guardian Angel Prayer

Apostles' Creed

Liturgy of the Word

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Creed

- Family: Parents of primary-grade children provide the most powerful influence on forming the faith of their children by living out their own faith with consistency and joy. Children experience God's loving presence in the everyday care and nurturing provided by parents. Families can also engage in primary-age discussions of the Catholic faith.
- Parish/School: The parish plays a vital catechetical role by relating the stories and beliefs of our tradition to children in a systematic way. Just as important are the parish programs designed to assist adults in their personal growth and education in faith.

Sacraments

- Family: Parents educate and prepare their primary child for celebration of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist by connecting daily experiences to Gospel teachings and their own experience of these Sacraments. Families celebrate Mass with the parish community and discuss participation and the meaning of symbols.
- Parish/School: The parish provides parents with catechetical resources, support, and encouragement to enable them to fully prepare their children for first and subsequent celebrations of the Sacraments. Parish sacramental celebrations are family-friendly and support parents in their role as primary educators of their children.

Christian Life

- Family: Parents influence children through the witness of their lived faith expressed in integrity and service. Children are included in service projects when possible. Issues related to justice, peace, respect for life, and other moral issues are discussed routinely around the dinner table or elsewhere at a level understandable to the primary-age child.
- Parish/School: The parish community provides children with the opportunity to share their material goods with those less fortunate, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas time. The parish community models itself after the Gospel values of peace, justice, and stewardship and provides adult education programs on moral issues.

Prayer

- Family: Families help children memorize traditional prayers such as the Our Father and Hail Mary through daily repetition. The family prays together regularly at mealtime, bedtime, and special seasonal observances and to commemorate significant life events.
- Parish/School: The parish regularly provides families with prayer resources that can be used easily in the home. Occasional parish family prayer services are held to celebrate, support, and encourage families in their role as the domestic church.

The Sign of the Cross



1. In the name of the Father,



2. and of the Son,



3. and of the Holy



4. Spirit.



5. Amen.

Glory to the Father

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins
with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.

Act of Faith, Hope, and Love

My God, I believe in you, I hope in you,
I love you above all things, with all my mind
and heart and strength.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with you!
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Angel Guardian (traditional)

Angel of God,
my Guardian dear,
to whom his love commits
me here,
ever this day (night)
be at my side,
to light and guard,
to rule and guide.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these
your gifts
which we are about to receive
from your goodness, through
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace After Meals

We give you thanks for all your
gifts, almighty God,
living and reigning now and for
ever. Amen.