

Characteristics of the Second Grader

Seven years old

Qualities

Beginning of openness to others, sensitive to the feelings and attitudes of others

Emotional life under better control

Competition involving peers is attractive

At this age level of moral and intellectual development, the seven year old takes possession of her/his spiritual autonomy. It is the age of intimacy with God, of personal encounter, of her/his first sacraments, of awakening of sense of prayer, of the development of the interior life. Even though the child is still at the age of subjectivity, she/he begins to feel the cost of her/his first choices which create a greater need in her/him to feel loved, guided, sustained, and pardoned.

It is at this time a delicate formation of conscience (moral personality) is called for, one in which authority, obedience, law and spontaneity will be wisely blended.

SPECIAL NOTE

Safe Environment Children's Program

The Safe Environment Children's Program was introduced in the Catholic Schools in the spring of 2003. There program consists of three lessons which are taught over a period of three years and then repeated.

The program was introduced in the parish Religious Education programs in the fall of 2008. Each parish is required to present one lesson to the children (grades K – 10) in the parish program each year. It is preferable that the lesson be taught in the fall of the catechetical/school year.

Following the lesson, a record of training must be sent to Kathleen Bolinski, Safe Environment Coordinator, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.

All materials needed for teaching the lessons in the *Safe Environment Children's Program* in the parish and school are found in the *Safe Environment* binder in the parish/school office.

CATECHESIS

1. Jesus taught us to live in love: love of God, love of others. (CCC 458-459, 1709)
2. Baptism is a sign of our coming into God's family, becoming God's child. It is the first sacrament we receive. (CCC 1267, 1277-1282)
 - a. In Baptism, as in all of the sacraments, we receive God's Grace.

- b. Grace is a gift from God that helps us to be holy. (CCC 1999, 2021-2024)
3. God gives us freedom to choose between good and evil. (CCC 1731-1734; Matthew 4:1-11)
 - a. Sin is choosing to do evil. It displeases God and hurts us and others as well. (CCC 1849-1850, 1871-1872)
 - b. While all sin displeases God, there are some sins which are less serious (venial sins) and some that are very serious (mortal sins). (CCC 1855)
 - c. Jesus forgives us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (CCC 1422, 1462, 1486)
 4. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we admit how we have failed to love God and each other. (CCC 1455, 1458)
 - a. God continues to love us even when we sin. (CCC 1468)
 - b. When we choose to do wrong, we have sinned against God whom we should love above all things. (CCC 1849, 1850)
 - c. God calls us always to be sorry for our sins and accept His forgiveness. (CCC 1425, 1451)
 - d. Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to forgive our sins and to give us grace to do good and avoid future sins. (CCC 1446)
 - e. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we confess our sins to a priest, express our sorrow for our sins, receive God's forgiveness and grace through the priest, and do the penance the priest gives us. (CCC 1480, 1491)
 - f. Penance (CCC 1450, 1460)
 5. The Church is the people of God gathered to celebrate the Eucharist (the Mass). (CCC 1356-1358, 1364)
 - a. We are called to actively participate (sing, respond, listen) in Mass. The children will know when to sit, stand, and kneel.
 - b. The children should recognize the ciborium, chalice, vestments, baptismal font, altar, ambo (lectern) and tabernacle in the church.
 - c. Liturgy of the Word (CCC 1346, 1349)
 - d. Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1088)
 6. Jesus gave us the Eucharist at the Last Supper. He wants us to be united with Him and with one another. (CCC 1323-1325, 1327)
 - a. The Last Supper was the First Mass. Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with the Apostles on the night before He died. (CCC 1323)
 - b. At Mass we gather to listen to God's Word, celebrate what Jesus has done for us, and receive His gift of the Holy Eucharist, which is His Body and Blood. (CCC 1348-1355, 1408)
 - c. That Jesus, through the priest(s), makes present His one sacrifice at every Mass. (CCC 1382)

- d. The Mass is also 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. (CCC 1382)
 - e. Jesus is present in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the Real Presence of Jesus, and the Eucharist nourishes us and strengthens us to follow Jesus. (CCC 1088, 1374, 1377-1378)
 - f. Anyone who desires to receive the Eucharist must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving Holy Communion. (CCC 1415)
 - g. We fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. (Water and/or medicine do not break the Eucharistic fast.)
7. Mary is the Mother of Jesus. (CCC 495, 501, 509)
- a. Angel Gabriel told Mary she was to be the mother of Jesus. (Luke 1:26-35)
 - b. Mary is our mother and the mother of all God’s children. She is a model for all Christians. (CCC 501)
 - c. Mary said “yes” to God with faith and trust. (Luke 1:26-35; CCC 494, 511)

Grade Two -- Words to be Taught

Angel	Mass
Blessed Sacrament	Penance
Crucifixion	Rite of Penance
Grace	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Heaven	Sacrament of Eucharist/Holy Communion
Hell	Scripture
Holy Day	Sin
Holy Week	
Liturgy of the Word	
Liturgy of the Eucharist	