

# GRADE LEVEL 4 EXPECTATIONS

## Creedal Church

- Believes in the goodness of creation and God's care for it
- Understands grace as a sharing in God's life
- Appreciates the Holy Spirit as helper and guide in making good choices
- Understands Church as a community of worship, witness and service which carries on the work and mission of Christ
- Understands that God communicates gradually to us
- Understands that our faith is Trinitarian as expressed in Baptism
- Understands that the story of Adam and Eve reminds us that our first parents sinned against God
- Understands that Jesus lived, suffered and died for us, and we will rise with Christ to new life after death
- Knows in everything Jesus did, he is our model
- Knows that the Trinity was fully revealed to Jesus' disciples at Pentecost
  - + Understands that Scripture is God's word to us
  - + Understands and responds to the following Scriptural passages as experiences of God's love for us, our love for humanity and our need for mercy and forgiveness: Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17); Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12); Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37); Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24); Temptation of Christ (Matthew 4:1-11)
- + Knows the meaning of the covenant with Noah, Abraham and Moses (Genesis 9:1-3, Genesis 17:1-9, Exodus 19:1-8)
- + Demonstrates the ability to locate the passages listed above in the Bible
- Knows that life begins at conception and grows inside the mother's body\*
- Knows that God created human beings with a body and soul\*

## Liturgy and Sacraments

- Articulates the meaning of the Sacraments of Initiation
- Celebrates the Eucharist as a sacrament of the Church's unity, reconciliation and peace
- Celebrates Reconciliation as a sacrament of conversion, God's forgiveness, mercy and love
- Recognizes the value of and knows how to examine one's conscience
- Knows how to celebrate Rite I and II of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and can articulate the communal dimension of sin and forgiveness
- Expresses sorrow for sins in a prayer of contrition
- Knows the essential importance of regular participation in Sunday Eucharist, knowing that it is a celebration of the Paschal Mystery
- Explains ways Christ is present at Mass
- Has a growing understanding of the liturgical year

## Characteristics of a Fourth Grader

- Demonstrates an interest in the wider world
- Grows in awareness of justice and fair play
- Exhibits awareness of self as individual and as a member of a group
- Recognizes need for guidelines and rules
- Acts more independently and confidently
- Begins to think of larger issues, e.g., environment, prejudice, violence, etc.
- Enjoys reading, listening to and participating in stories as well as role playing
- Develops friendships with members of the same sex
- Learns from observations as well as direct teaching
- Is able to use technology to obtain information and to communicate with others
- Displays curiosity about life, nature and people
- Desires to share and do things with others
- Develops an awareness that life requires making choices
- Is significantly influenced by teens and pre-teens in popular culture (music, television, movies)

## Moral Life

- Recognizes that all Christians are called to holiness
- Knows Jesus' Two Great Commandments of love are a Christian's way of life
- Can articulate the Ten Commandments using the traditional formula
- Sees the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as ways of responding to the needs of others
- Realizes that original sin is the human condition into which we are all born
- Recognizes conscience as the inner ability to judge between good and bad when making choices and recognizes the seven capital sins
- Realizes that temptation is a pull toward something we know is sinful and that it is a part of everyone's life
- Recognizes the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
  - + Responds to the Ten Commandments as rules to help us live God's life of love (Exodus 20:2-17)
  - + Learns the Beatitudes as a way of life modeled by Christ to bring happiness (Matthew 5:1-12)
  - + Differentiates between sin which is choosing to turn away from God and mistakes which are accidents (Temptations of Christ - Matthew 4:1-11)
  - + Realizes that all choices have responsibilities and consequences and are to be made in light of Gospel values (Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37)
- Knows that listening to feelings can help one decide how to act\*
- Knows that he/she can talk to someone when not feeling safe\*\*
- Identifies "private and special" body parts and touches which can make a person feel uncomfortable\*\*
- Can define bullying and harassment and recognize it when it occurs\*\*

## Christian Prayer

- Understands prayer as the living relationship of the children of God with their Father, his Son and the Holy Spirit
- Prays and understands the Prayer of St. Francis as a model for peace and love in the world
- Prays the Our Father
- Understands the Nicene and Apostles Creeds as statements of Catholic beliefs
- Reviews the memorization of previous prayers
- Memorizes the Glory to the Father (Doxology) and the Apostles Creed
- Recognizes forms of popular piety such as the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross
- Experiences personal and communal prayer, especially prayers of praise and thanksgiving