

# Developmental Benchmarks for Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten:

## **Scripture:**

*During Pre-K/K, our children will come to understand Sacred Scripture as God's Word that speaks to them. During this time, they will learn, experience and/or be able to...*

- See and hold a Bible
- Recognize the Bible is a special, holy book for Christians
- Know that the Bible stories tell about God's love for us
- Know that life and all of creation are gifts from God that we are to love and protect
- Have heard the following Bible stories:
  - The 1st Creation Story (Genesis 1: 1-31 and 2: 1-4a)
  - The Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1: 18 -25; Luke 2: 1-20)
  - Jesus blessing the children (Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17)
  - The story of Jesus' death and resurrection (end of all four Gospels)

## **Doctrine:**

*During Pre-K/K, our children will know and understand these basic teachings of the Catholic faith:*

- Know that God loves us and gives us the gift of life
- Know that God always was and always will be (God has no beginning and no end)
- Identify Jesus as God's Son
- Know that Mary is the Mother of Jesus/the Mother of God
- Understand that God sent us Jesus to show us how to live good lives and to love

## **Sacraments:**

*During Pre-K/K, our children will begin to know and appreciate the importance of Sacraments and that Liturgy and Eucharist is central to our Catholic Faith. They will...*

- Know what Baptism is and that, through Baptism, we are welcomed into the Christian Family
- Ideally, have the children see/attend a Baptism (or take the children up to church and show/describe what happens)
- Attend and participate at Mass regularly and be able to recognize:
  - The Crucifix
  - The Priest (and know that our priest's name is Father Gary)
  - The Baptismal Font
  - The Statue of Mary
  - Hold hands during saying of "Our Father" (joining in is even better) and participate during Sign of Peace
  - Holy Water (and be able to sign themselves with it)

## **Prayer & Spirituality:**

*By the end of Pre-K/K, our children will...*

- Recognizes that Prayer is listening and talking to God.
- Develop a sense of reverence during Mass and prayer times.
- Be able to recite and demonstrate The Sign of The Cross
- Be able to demonstrate some prayer postures, e.g., folding hands to pray, kneeling, hold hands during the Our Father in Mass
- Participate in these formal prayers, i.e., Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Participate in spontaneous prayers, i.e., personal petitions for self or others
- Be able to prayerfully say “Amen” at the end of a prayer
- Be able to participate in saying Grace before meals
- Begin to develop the habit of saying prayers daily
- Know that God loves and cares them; God loves & cares for everyone; God wants us to love ourselves and each other
- Know that God is the Creator of all
- Know that God is everywhere

## **Community:**

*By the end of Pre-K/K, our children will understand that they are part of a larger faith community or family – the parish community of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception AND the larger Catholic Church. They will...*

- Understand and be able to share examples of what it means to be a family and how Jesus asks us to treat our family
- Understand that the Church (in our community and the entire world) is like a big family

## **Service:**

*By the end of Pre-K, our children will...*

- Share some ways they help others (peers, teachers, parents, and those in need)
- Participate in at least one activity to help others
- Know how to take care of property (their own and others)
- Know ways they can care for and appreciate God’s creation
- Shows respect for others

## **Catholic Prayers to be able to participate in with others:**

**Sign of the Cross** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Our Father** 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.

**Hail Mary** Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**Prayer Before Meals** Bless us O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Glory Be** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.