



## **Saint Patrick Parish Religious Education Program**

### **Family Catechesis**

March 2017

Dear PREP Families,

Greetings in the Lord! Our Catholic children and our families are so precious to the Church. We have heard Pope Francis proclaim this over and over. As the Director of Religious Education in the parish, my primary concern is that all of our children and families can receive the best religious formation that we can offer for each family, and be of support to each family in their own situations. We try to listen and adapt the best we can. At the same time, those of us responsible to the Church for the spiritual formation of the parish children, want to make sure all areas are covered in a credible manner and the children are learning the best they can.

Because of this, our PREP program offers a component called **FAMILY CATECHESIS**.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has set guidelines for families that choose to catechize their own children. If you are considering this, I ask you to please access these guidelines at [phillyocf.org](http://phillyocf.org) -> **PREP** -> **PREP Resources**-> **Religion Guidelines-> Home Based Catechesis** and read them carefully. As a parish in the Archdiocese, we adhere to these guidelines.

If parents choose to catechize their children at home, then the archdiocese is recognizing them as a catechist and they need to fulfill any requirement of any classroom catechist. Therefore, those parents choosing “Family Catechesis” in our parish will be required to attend a general meeting of Family Catechesis parents with the DRE to be instructed in the requirements of the grade that their child or children are in.

- The parent/catechist will be instructed in the scope and sequence of the religion curriculum and doctrines that are required to be taught for that grade level in the archdiocese.
- The parent/catechist will be instructed in the guidelines required for that grade level in the archdiocese.
- The parent/catechist will have explained to them the requirements of our parish for Family Catechesis. This being that a “project” of the parent and child that reflect themes learned will be completed and presented (1 each semester).
- The children of families in Family Catechesis will need to attend a class 4 times a year on designated days in a classroom in the school building for evaluation by

the DRE or a designated catechist. This evaluation may be in both spoken and written form. Projects will also be presented at these meetings.

- A written evaluation will be administered at the end of the year as a record of proof of completion of that grade level.
- *Please note that Family Catechesis is not an option for years in which preparation for reception of a Sacrament is taking place. (2<sup>nd</sup> grade; 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade)*

As stated in the Guidelines for Home Based Catechesis in the Philadelphia Archdiocese, a parent should only request this for a very important reason. Referencing Pope St. John Paul, while the church recognizes that catechesis can take place anywhere, the parish community remains the prime mover of catechesis. So, we will ask that the reasons for requesting the Family Catechesis be seriously considered. If a family that is new to the PREP program is requesting **Family Catechesis** for one or more of their children, they will need to contact Sister Eileen to obtain further information.

May our good Lord bless all of our families with graces in abundance!

Sincerely,

Sister Eileen Tiernan

Director of Religious Education

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