

Saint Patrick Parish Religious Education Program

Family Faith at Home

Summer 2021

Dear PREP Families,

This past year is one we will not soon forget, and, most likely, changed the way we view and do many things. All of our PREP parents took on the role of catechist to their families since we could not gather at our parish school building. The Church has always recognized parents as the first catechists in their child's life. The Church offers assistance in this area, through the parish, by making available Faith Formation classes for its young parishioners. However, the Church does not take away the primary responsibility of every parent to catechize and teach their children about God. This was a sacred duty promised by parents at their child's Baptism.

We are going to build on the experience of last year by offering a Family Faith at Home option to our PREP families as we move forward and return to our regular in-person classes. *We are going to limit the number of families this year as we see how it works.*

The concept of "Whole Family Catechesis" is to catechize the parents who in turn catechize their children. Together, as a family, they pray and learn and grow in their Catholic faith. It is meant to be done as a family. Therefore, it does not work if the parents pass off the teaching to grandparents or other family or friends. If parents do not feel they can commit to this, then the option for Family Faith at Home should not be requested.

Please note that 6th Level students must attend weekly in person classes as they are preparing for Confirmation in the Fall of 7th Level.

The components of our Family Faith at Home program will consist of:

- ❖ Orientation Session for Parent Catechists at the beginning of the year.
- ❖ 4 sessions throughout the year for Parents and Children to attend.
 - There are 4 Units in the textbook. Parents and children will come together after each unit.
 - These sessions will occur on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:20, after which your family will attend the 10:30 mass.
 - The parents will be given catechetical background and material so that they can teach their families.
 - The children will go to their grade level to meet with a catechist.
- ❖ Each family will complete and hand in a Family Reflection and Response Form at the end of each Unit.

- ❖ Parents will be e-mailed videos to view for their own theological background to help them pass on the faith to their families.
- ❖ The children will be expected to participate in PREP special activities, such as PREP confessions, and any special assembly (e.g., Lenten Mission assembly)

To be considered to participate in the Family Faith at Home option, you must fulfill the following:

- Registered for PREP for 2021-22
- Participate in the sacramental life of our parish
- Attend all on-site parent/children sessions throughout the year (lack of participation will lead to placement of children in the regular weekly classes).
- Agree to follow all components of the Family Faith at Home program.
- Parents must agree to teach their own families, not pass it on to grandparents or others.
- Fill out the Request Form for the Family Faith at Home program and return to the Religious Education Office by August 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

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

Sister Eileen Tiernan

Director of Religious Education



“...the family which experiences the joy of faith communicates it naturally. That family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world...”

Pope Francis