



Saint Patrick Parish Religious Education Program

Family Catechesis option

2026-2027

A newer perspective of catechesis that the Church is moving towards is **Family Catechesis**. The Church has always recognized parents as the first catechists in their child's life. Every parish offers assistance in this area 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.

St. Patrick Parish Religious Education program does offer Family Catechesis as an option for faith formation.

Description and Explanation of the Family Catechesis Option

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 Catechesis should not be requested.

We will be using the Loyola Press Family Catechesis program. Parents and their children will attend an in-person session/class once every 4 to 5 weeks. At this session, the parents will participate in a multimedia presentation and discussion on a Unit theme prepared by Loyola Press. The children will go to their grade level class to be taught the 1st lesson of the Unit by a catechist. Then, the parents teach the next 4 lessons of the Unit at home to their children. The children complete an evaluation after each Unit to return to their catechist. **A plus to this option is that the parents can choose the optimal time each week to present the lessons to their children.** Parents will be supplied with many resources from us and also resources prepared by Loyola Press to support them in their role of catechist.

There will be 7 themes, throughout the year. The themes are:

God; Jesus; The Church; Sacraments; Morality; and the seasonal lessons for Advent/Christmas, and Lent/Easter

The in-person parent sessions/child classes will be held on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30. Your family may conveniently attend the 9:30 parish mass and then come over for the Family Catechesis session.

Please note that 6th Level students must attend weekly in person classes as they are preparing for Confirmation in the Fall of 7th Level. So, 6th Level students are not an option for Family Catechesis.

The components of our Family Catechesis program will consist of:

- 7 sessions throughout the year for Parents and Children to attend.
- Evaluations of student progress.
- The children will also 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 Catechesis option, you must fulfill the following:

- Registered for PREP for 2026-27
- Participate in the sacramental life of our parish
- Attend all on-site parent sessions/children classes 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 Catechesis program.
- Parents must agree to teach their own families, not pass it on to grandparents or others.
- Fill out and sign the Request and Agreement Form for the Family Catechesis program and return it with your PREP registration.
- Acceptance into this option will be at the discretion of the Director of Religious Education.

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

Julian Swiggett

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