

Family Catechesis FAQ's

Why family catechesis?

In the Bishop Konderla's 2018 pastoral letter he stated as his first goal, "two thirds of the parishes will offer a family based catechetical model by May 23, 2021."

What is Family Catechesis?

Family catechesis is a curriculum that focuses on the family as a whole and not the individual.

Parents are the primary educators in their children's life and do not require any special skills or certifications.

"The ministry of evangelization carried out by Christian parents is original and irreplaceable. It assumes the characteristics typical of family life itself, which should be interwoven with love, simplicity, practicality and a daily witness" – FAMILARIS CONSORTIO

What program will we be using for family catechesis?

We will be using Family of Faith by Sophia Institute. This curriculum is easy to use curriculum to catechize the whole family and helping to lead their children in learning about their faith and developing a relationship with Christ.

What grades is family catechesis for?

Family catechesis is geared for children/youth in grades K-6th; however a family with older children is encouraged to include them in the learning as a whole family.

Is family catechesis temporary?

Per the bishop's request this change was coming to our faith formation program. The plan was to use this year to transition and inform you parents of the changeover to family catechesis. However, COVID led us to make this change a year sooner than we had planned. We were unable to adapt the curriculum we were using to be done at home.

However there are parts of family catechesis that we are unable to do because of COVID right now. As restrictions loosen and we can have larger groups in the building we will implement the other parts of family catechesis.

What are the other parts of family catechesis that will be implemented later?

The first part is a family gathering once a month with all those who are participating in family catechesis. These once a month gatherings might include a meal, craft, activity, and review to let the children share what they have learned. Also, down the road we would like to bring the children in to meet with catechists during the once a month parent meeting to get an introduction to the months topic as well as allow social time with their peers.

What support do we parents get?

Parents are asked to attend the parent meeting at the beginning of each month. During this meeting they will learn about the focus of the month, as well as get additional suggestions, resources each month. We will also have family groups for families to sign up for.

We have also created a Facebook page ([St. Henry Family Catechesis](#)) for those participating in family catechesis. Parents can post what their family has done for the month, ask questions that have come up, and receive additional resources put out by the Coordinator of Faith Formation.

What are family groups?

Family groups are support groups, and they are what you make of them. You may use your family groups to do monthly activities together. You could use your family groups as a social time to build community amongst the children/youth and parents. These groups can be used as support to help answer questions you or another member might have.

How many families are in a family group?

Family groups will have 6 families in them. They will be a mixture of people you know and people wanting to get connected.

How do we sign up for family groups?

We will have sign-ups for family groups after the first (September) parent meeting.

Will we get to pick our families?

Yes & No. When you sign up you will get to request up to 3 other families you want to be with (we will do everything to get you with some of those families but not guaranteed). We will fill the remaining spots with families that are either new, do not know many people, or those who do not care what other families they are put with.

What if I do not know anyone, how will I get added to a family group?

Those who are new, do not know many people, or do not care who they are with can sign up without requests of other families to be with and you will be added to a group.