

Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce a positive change to our Elementary Faith Formation program, one that is family-centered, offering spiritual food and help for you and your whole family. Since the Church teaches that "Parents are the primary teachers in the way of faith," bishops around the country have asked us to involve the family more in sharing and teaching the faith.

After much prayer and research, we are pleased to present you with a monthly model, called **Family Catechesis Sundays**. Our primary focus is for the parents of children in grades 1st - 5th. One Sunday a month we will offer a brief but full program for the whole family. Here's how it will work.

1. On the designated Sunday, parents will drop off their children at the RCE gym at 9am. They will be separated by age/grade level and offered fun faith-based activities with adult supervision.
2. Parents will be asked to attend a 30 minute presentation in church at the same time. A guest speaker will offer more insight and basic knowledge of our faith for you, the parents.
3. At each Family Catechesis Sunday, you will be asked to turn in completed pages from a resource book that you will receive upon registering your child. These pages are easy-to-use catechism teachings (prayers, bible stories, sacraments, etc) for your child. The goal is that during the month you would make time to sit with your child and discuss the material. This structure provides you with flexibility to go at a pace that accommodates your family. The pace could be all at once, or spread out over the month, whichever is best for your family.
4. A volunteer from our parish is willing to offer support if you need.
5. The Parent Session ends around 9:45. Your children will be brought to meet you in church for 10:00 mass. The program concludes at the end of Mass.

Remember this is **ONLY ONCE A MONTH**: 4 times in the fall and 4 times in the spring. It's about feeding the soul of the whole family and bringing catechism into your home.

Registration can be found on the St. Joseph website along with a detailed 2021-2022 schedule.

Finally, we will have a very **important meeting on Sunday August 29 following 5:30 pm mass** in the Family Life Center. Please mark your calendar to attend this meeting. We will go over the program with you at this meeting, discussing the importance of the shift to family catechesis, and will answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely your in Christ,
Fr. Brent Smith- *pastor*
Josette LeBlanc - *DRE*

Fall Dates:
September 12, 2021
October 3, 2021
November 7, 2021
December 5, 2021

Spring Dates:
January 9, 2022
February 6, 2022
March 6, 2022
April 3, 2022