

Methods of Implementation and Adaptations for Family Catechesis



***Use a curriculum that has thematic units or is based on the liturgical and lectionary calendar.**

Option 1: Families gather once a month in a large group setting at the parish and continue regular classes the rest of the month at the parish.

- Parents meet with DRE or Catechists for an introduction to the theme unit for the month
- Children go to age-specific classrooms and are presented with the first chapter lesson of a thematic unit
- After the prescribed time, children and parents come together to share what they learned (optional).
- Facilitated conversation with parents leads to an exchange of how the lesson applies to their life today, and families are challenged to go out and live their faith.
- Children continue to meet with their catechists weekly at the parish for lessons the rest of the month

Option 2: Families gather once a month in a large group setting at the parish and then continue lessons in the home for the rest of the month with once a month check-in from a catechist to answer questions or offer assistance.

- Parents meet with DRE or Catechists: allow for small group time for parents to share their at home learning experiences from the previous month and then introduce the theme unit for the next month and instructions on how to present lessons at home
- Children go to age-specific classrooms where they review and share what they learned in lessons at home from the previous month and are introduced to the unit for the next month
- After the prescribed time, children and parents come together for facilitated conversation, closing prayer, and possible social time (optional).
- Facilitated conversation with parents leads to an exchange of how the lesson applies to their life today, and families are challenged to go out and live their faith.
- Families continue at-home faith formation until the next monthly meeting

Adaptations

- Hold family sessions twice a month and regular catechesis twice a month.
- Parent Meetings and/or classroom teaching may be moved online, utilizing a video conference platform such as Google Meet, Zoom, or Go-to-Meeting, if local government or health restrictions warrant it.
- Some parishes might only gather for an intergenerational session a few times a year, rather than monthly. Such a parish might choose the themes related to the liturgical season or Catholic Social Teaching.

What happens in the adult/parent session during the family gatherings?

- Begin with prayer and Scripture reflection
- Talk in small groups about at-home learning experiences, living/sharing the faith experience, etc.
- Break for refreshments (optional)
- Learn about *Faith Theme* of the coming month
 - Presentations, special guest speakers, panels – videos!
 - Kids are learning about same topic at their own level in classrooms
 - Presentation style changes every year
- Talk in small groups to share ideas about applying the topic in everyday life
- Parents pick up children from classrooms at the end of sessions