



The Parish of Saint Catherine of Siena
Religious Education

Guidelines for Family Catechesis (Home Schooling)

Thank you for choosing Home School / Family Catechesis for your child. In choosing to do this, you are agreeing to be not only the primary religious educator as a parent, but also the secondary religious educator for your child. Please be aware of the requirements outlined by the diocese. Each year is a foundation for the subsequent year so they can proceed to the next year of study.

- 1) A home school family must be a participating, registered, and contributing member of the parish, and must be registered in the Religious Education Program.
- 2) The Home Schooling Program is available only to faith-filled families who have a legitimate reason for choosing the Home School alternative.
- 3) Parents must secure the permission to home school from the Director of Religious Education and in some instances (Sacramental preparation years) -- also the Pastor.
 - Sacramental preparation may only be accomplished within classes of the Religious Education Program because sacraments are celebrated within the community of the church and therefore, students should be formed within their parish's community of faith.
- 4) Parents who provide Religious Education as part of the Home School Program are required to attend the following (families will be notified of the dates in the summer of 2018):
 - the Catechist meeting in early September
 - the quarterly meetings for parents and their children, at which time their academic progress will be discussed. **Children must bring their textbooks to these sessions.**
- 5) Students **must turn in a completed textbook** (which is distributed at the September Catechist meeting) to receive credit for having completed that grade, and to advance to the next grade level.

Children's Names & Grades: _____

Please indicate your reason for choosing this option.

Must Provide Email Address _____

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I have been given a copy of the Diocesan Guidelines for Home Schooling in Rel. Ed.

INITIALS (remove attached copy of guidelines for your records)

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Diocese of Bridgeport
Suggestions for Home Schooling

The normative method for Religious Education in the Diocese of Bridgeport, of all students, is within parish catechetical programs.

However, some parents have expressed a desire to fulfill their child's Religious Education requirements within the context of a Home School Program. At the recommendation of the Office for Catechesis for the Diocese of Bridgeport, the following suggestions for incorporating Religious Education into a Home School Program are presented.

The suggestions are as follows:

- 1) For recognition in the Religious Education Program a Home School family must be a participating, registered and contributing member of a parish, and must be registered in a Religious Education Program.
- 2) The Home Schooling Program is available only to faith-filled families who have a legitimate reason after exploring alternative arrangements.
- 3) The Parent/Catechist must secure the permission of the pastor and the Director of Religious Education (DRE).
- 4) The Parent/Catechist is to be charged the same registration fee and be registered in the Parish Religious Education Program. Financial hardship should not be a deterrent, nor considered a reason, for not enrolling a child in the parish program. Financial arrangements will be available.
- 5) The Parent/Catechist is expected to use the same textbook and supplemental materials as the Parish Religious Education Program.
- 6) Parents, who provide Religious Education as a part of the Home School Program, must be certified or working towards certification as a catechist. The Director of Religious Education (DRE) will assist with the certification process.
- 7) The Parent/Catechist will be required to attend all parent and catechist meetings of the Parish Religious Education program.
- 8) The Parent/Catechist will be required to meet quarterly with the Director of Religious Education (DRE) to evaluate the accomplishment of objectives set forth by the pastor and the DRE. If the parent misses a meeting, it must be made up, or the student will not be on the records as registered and attending.
- 9) Home Schooled Religious Education Students must be evaluated by the Director of Religious Education (DRE) at least twice a year for academic progress, comprehension and spiritual formation. The student's progress will be appraised in the following areas: Doctrine (Message); Faith Sharing (Worship); Community Building (Community) and Service Opportunities (Service).
- 10) Since the Parent/Catechist must use only those materials recommended by the DRE, the parish is to make available all resources, support and training for them.
- 11) Sacramental preparation, specifically, may only be accomplished in the Parish Religious Education Program. Home schooling for sacramental years will not be acceptable. Sacraments belong to the community of the Church and not private families; therefore, sacramental preparation should be taught and evaluated within the community of the Church.
- 12) Whether a student participates in a classroom program, or in a home school program, each grade level must be completed before being considered for being moved to the next level of sacramental preparation.