



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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St. Francis of Assisi Religious Education Program

April 3, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In response to the demands of family life and assisting parents in making religious education a priority in their homes, we've added a "Family Based Catechesis" component/option to our parish religious education program this past year. Because of its success, we will continue this option again for next year. Please note: we will still have the regularly scheduled weekly PREP sessions.

The plan is as follows:

Instead of families sending their children to the weekly PREP sessions:

- Students and their parents come together for an hour and a half session, once per month, for 7 months (September, October, November, January, February, March, and April).
- In this session students are introduced to a new unit of study by catechists in age-appropriate classrooms and are taught the liturgical year lessons (7 themes for 7 months).
- At the same time, parents participate in exploring these same themes through adult presentations and discussions.
- Parents, with resources provided, then work with their children throughout the month completing the three chapters of each unit.
- Other expectations:
 - Families are also required to "Explore Four" (or more) life of the parish events of their choice during the 7 months that support faith formation and hand in a reflection form following attendance. An example would be to: attend or participate in an RCIA learning session, Family Advent Day, the Lenten Reconciliation Service and a parish service opportunity
 - Families complete the 7 Unit Reviews and hand them in each month to their child's monthly catechist.

These family sessions are planned for the 4th Thursday of each month except December: September 27, October 25, November 29th, January 24th, February 28th, March 28th, and April 25th.

Please read the witnesses from some of the families who participated this year found on the other side of this letter. There will be an informational night during which you can answer questions. This is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25th in the Conway Hall Conference Room.

Feel free to call me at 610-543-0848 to ask further questions.

Sincerely,

Madelyn McBride