

Sacred Heart 2020-2021 RE/YM Information

Part I: Expectations / Definitions:

1. Parents, as the primary catechists, will provide the weekly instruction for their children in Grades 1-8 based on the recommendations of the Religious Education leadership team in the parish. Parent(s) will be considered the **family catechist(s)**.
2. At a minimum, Grades 1-8 weekly instruction should include a lesson from the book (which may be a digital or physical book), assessment of the lesson, lesson activities, prayer, Scripture, and Mass.
3. Families of students in Grades 1-8 will also attend monthly group formation provided by the DRE and the parish catechists.
4. The Religious Education (RE) leadership team will provide support as the secondary catechists. Those on the RE leadership team include the pastor, the DRE, the CRE, the SHOCK adult leadership team, and the parish catechists.

Parish catechists are those volunteers who live the faith and agree to pray, prepare, and study so as to be effective witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5. The DRE and the secondary catechists will provide monthly formation for the families on a particular topic, review/reinforce topics with the families as indicated by the assessment results, and provide instruction to assist the family catechists with the weekly lessons.
6. The SHOCK adult leadership team will provide weekly formation for the high school youth in a youth ministry format, with guidance and support from the DRE.

The **SHOCK adult leadership team** are volunteers who have agreed to be accompany our teens, as witnesses who live the faith, grow in faith, and pass on the faith following from the baptismal call to be disciples of Christ.

Part II: Passing on the Faith

A. Regular Grade Level Instruction for Grades 1-8:

1. We will **not** have “traditional” classroom-based instruction this Fall for the regular grade level catechesis. The RE leadership team will re-evaluate in December and make a decision for the Spring semester. In addition, the RE leadership team will evaluate the monthly in the group formation to make adjustments, as needed.

2. Families will be given a choice as to whether or not they want to be involved in the formation process via one of three options:
 - a. E-book/e-assessments/monthly family meetings via Zoom or other platform with the RE leadership team.
 - b. Physical book/physical assessments/monthly in-person family meetings at the parish with the RE leadership team.
 - c. E-book/e-assessments/monthly in-person family meetings at the parish with the RE leadership team.

3. Attendance / Session times / Progress deadlines:
 - a. Attendance is mandatory and will be monitored via the assessments and the monthly family meetings.
 - b. Families should determine their own weekly time for what they are doing in their homes. There are some suggestions for those sessions given below.
 - c. Monthly family sessions have several options. One option **must** be chosen by each family so that we may meet appropriate distancing requirements, etc. Changes will only be made with adequate explanation.
 - 1) Appropriate digital time on the first or second weekend of the month. Days and times to be determined based on input from the families participating in this method.
 - 2) In-person time on the first Sunday of each month from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M.
 - 3) In-person time on the second Sunday of each month from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M.
 - d. Assessments and activities for lessons, whether electronic or physical, will be due at least 3 hours prior to each group formation session. A schedule, as well as a book and instructions, will be provided at the first meeting.

B. Youth Ministry:

1. We have two levels of Youth Ministry – Grades 7/8 CYM and Grades 9-12 SHOCK.
 - a. CYM will mostly be via the grade level classes this fall. We hope to have at least one event for CYM in the spring.
 - b. SHOCK will meet regularly in-person at the parish. We hope to have other offsite events in the second semester.

2. SHOCK will be in-person unless there are specific situations where a student is unable to be present. These will be on a case-by-case basis and must be discussed with the DRE.

3. SHOCK will be for registered youth only, due to the additional virus protocols.

4. Those in the second year of their preparation for Confirmation must be a regular participant in SHOCK, with a maximum of 2 unexcused absences per semester.

5. In-person gatherings will be on Sundays from 5-7 P.M. at the parish. At this time, we're planning every Sunday, but please follow our communications as a monthly schedule will be published.
6. Those interested in serving on the youth leadership team for SHOCK (After SHOCK) will meet on Sundays from 4-5 P.M.

C. Sacrament Instruction:

1. We will have "traditional" instruction for Sacrament preparation as follows:
 - a. First Reconciliation and First Communion – those in their second year of formal preparation for the sacrament.
 - b. Confirmation – those in their second year of formal preparation for the sacrament.
 - c. RCIA and RCIA Adapted for Children.
 - d. Adult First Communion.
 - e. Adult Confirmation.
 - f. Baptism.
 - g. Matrimony.
2. Instruction may be digital via Zoom or other platform OR in-person in the church or in the Parish Center.
3. Attendance / Session times / Deadlines:
 - a. **First Reconciliation:**
 - 1) Students must have completed the pre-requisite "Pre-Communion" formation year.
 - 2) Students must be completing the requirements for the grade level formation simultaneous to preparing for the sacrament.
 - 3) Classes will be for students only. The books used are bilingual. It is expected that parents will review the lessons with their child at home.
 - 4) Classes will be taught in-person in a "traditional" classroom setting in the meeting room in the church.
 - 5) Classes will be taught by parish catechists.
 - 6) There will be 4-6 sessions from September through December. There will be only 1 unexcused absence allowed. (Make up work will be assigned for excused and unexcused absences.)
 - 7) Class times are usually Sunday mornings from 10:15-11:15 A.M.
 - 8) Student must demonstrate proficiency with their prayers, knowledge of sin, ability to examine one's own conscience, and knowledge of the steps for confession.
 - 9) First Reconciliation is planned for some time in January.
 - 10) The DRE will provide ongoing communication and feedback to the parents and we expect the parents to communicate with the DRE as well.

b. First Communion:

- 1) Students must have completed the pre-requisite of celebrating First Reconciliation.
- 2) Students must be completing the requirements for the grade level formation simultaneous to preparing for the sacrament.
- 3) Classes will be for students only. The books used are bilingual and it is expected that parents will review the lessons with their child at home.
- 4) Parents are expected to attend Mass regularly with their child so that their child develops an understanding of the Mass. Support is available from the pastor or the DRE to help the parents teach their children about the Mass.
- 5) Classes will be taught in-person in a “traditional” classroom setting in the meeting room in the church.
- 6) Classes will be taught by a parish catechist.
- 7) There will be 4-6 sessions from February through May. There will be only 1 unexcused absence allowed. (Make up work will be assigned for excused and unexcused absences.)
- 8) Class times are usually Sunday mornings from 10:15-11:15 A.M.
- 9) Student must demonstrate ability to celebrate Reconciliation, basic understanding of the Mass, basic understanding of Real Presence in the Eucharist, and knowledge of the steps to receive communion.
- 10) First Communion is planned for some time in the late spring.
- 11) The DRE will provide ongoing communication and feedback to the parents and we expect the parents to communicate with the DRE as well.

c. Confirmation:

- 1) Students must have completed the pre-requisite “Pre-Confirmation” formation year and Summer Review sessions.
- 2) Students must attend SHOCK youth group regularly with a maximum of two (2) unexcused absences per semester.
- 3) Students must complete the fall retreat and spring service days.
- 4) Students must attend the Confirmation-specific preparation.
- 5) Classes will be for students. Parents and/or sponsors may be asked to join the candidates. Instruction will be via an online program with in-person/Zoom gatherings for discussion.
- 6) Students are expected to attend Mass regularly.
- 7) Classes will be taught by a parish catechist.
- 8) There will be 6-8 sessions beginning in January. No absences. (Make up work will be assigned for absences.)
- 9) Class times are usually Sunday mornings from 10:15-11:15 A.M.
- 10) Confirmation will be planned for some time in the spring, on a date selected by Bishop Vasquez’ office.
- 11) The DRE will provide ongoing communication and feedback to the parents and we expect the parents to communicate with the DRE as well.

- d. **RCIA and RCIA Adapted for Children.** *(to be added soon)*
- e. **Adult First Communion.** *(to be added soon)*
- f. **Adult Confirmation.** *(to be added soon)*
- g. **Baptism.** *(to be added soon)*
- h. **Matrimony.** *(to be added soon)*

Part III: Other Information

A. Sanitation and other protocols:

See attachments.

B. Suggestions for family catechists:

1. Set aside at least one time each week where the family can focus together on prayer and study of the faith. This means no phones, no TV, no distractions. Also, if possible, the time should be consistent so that the children have a routine.
2. Focus on prayer, Scripture, and the weekly lesson(s) in the materials provided by the parish during this time.
3. At home study of the faith is in addition to the Mass.
4. Why should families study the faith together?
 - a. Parents are fulfilling their promises made in the Sacraments of Matrimony and Baptism to pass on the faith to their children.
 - b. Parents will grow in faith with their children.
 - c. Group catechesis at the parish is also required because our faith is based not only on the individual's relationship with God, but also his/her relationship within the community which is the Body of Christ.