

## **Recommended Curriculums: Descriptions**

### **Grade School Curriculums:**

#### **A Family of Faith (Sophia Institute)**

A Family of Faith was created to help develop strong Catholic families in which children learn the joys of following Jesus Christ and the truths of the Faith through the witness of Christian life given by their parents. Although individual families can easily use A Family of Faith independent of the parish, this program was designed to be used by parishes as an alternative to faith formation classes.

Studies show that parental involvement in the faith-life of children is by far the most important element in ensuring that a child develops into a practicing Christian. A Family of Faith provides both the parish catechist and the parent with an easy-to-use, turnkey solution to catechizing the whole family and helping parents lead their children to Heaven.

#### **Family Formation (Church of Saint Paul in Ham Lake)**

Family Formation is a tried and true model and curriculum developed by parents who were searching for a better way to convey and pass on the Truths of the Faith to their children.

Our mission is to help parents respond to the Church's call to be "the first and foremost educators of their children" and to help families grow in the transforming love of God by understanding and living the Catholic Faith (Gravissimum Educationis, 3).

#### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Requires trained Catechists)**

CGS is a common religious experience involving children and adults in which the religious values of childhood, primarily those values of contemplation and enjoyment of God, are predominant. This experience is shared in a place particularly prepared for the religious life of children called the Atrium.

We believe that God and the child have a unique relationship with one another, particularly before the age of six; that growth of this relationship should be assisted by the adult, but is directed by the Spirit of God; that children need their own place to foster the growth of that relationship; and that the child's spiritual growth is best served through tangible but indirect means.

Our mission is to support catechists, parents, and others in the Church and beyond, as they grow in their understanding of the religious potential of children.

#### **Image of God: Ignatius Press**

The Image of God religion series is an exciting and comprehensive Catholic program that has as its foundation the creation of human beings in God's own likeness. The greatest confirmation of man's unique dignity is the Incarnation of Christ, the God-man who is the perfect image of the Father and who reveals God as Love, especially by the Cross and Resurrection. In revealing God, Christ showed us who we are and how to act. This emphasis on the dignity of the individual child as the foundation of this series is taken from Scripture, the documents of Vatican II, and the writing of John Paul II. It presents the Catholic Faith in a stimulating and easy to read format that is being praised by teachers, pastors, and bishops.

### **Spirit of Truth: Sophia Institute**

As a religious education director, you know better than anyone that the opposite of love is indifference. For so many families, the conventional textbook experience is underwhelming. You see the results: disengaged students, apathetic parents, and frustrated catechists. Spirit of Truth was created to help you change that dynamic.

Our new K-8 religious education program takes your students on an immersive and memorable journey through the Catholic Faith. Our engaging session plans and activities will give your catechists the confidence they need to create an engaging environment that they and their students actually look forward to each week.

### **Faith and Life: Ignatius Press**

The Faith and Life religious education series was written for both school and parish use and is now in its Third Edition with separate manuals for the teacher in a daily classroom setting (Teacher's Manual) and the catechist in a once a week classroom setting (Parish Catechist Manual). There is a Family Guide for parental involvement in the ongoing religious formation of the child while the student uses both a Student Textbook and a separate Activity Book.

The Faith and Life Third Edition series presents Catholic teaching using the time-tested ecclesial methodology and spiral development of catechesis, in a beautiful, student-friendly, comprehensive format.

### **Alive in Christ: Our Sunday Visitor (Spanish version available)**

If you are seeking to provide your parish with an authentic and comprehensive presentation of the Catholic faith in a format that intentionally mirrors the Divine Pedagogy, builds Catholic identity, involves families, and supports catechists and teachers with easy-to-use and effective tools, you must review Alive in Christ!

Alive in Christ is about the invitation from God to be in a relationship with him—that encounter with Christ—so that we can come alive with the joy of the gospel and live as lifelong disciples. That is the foundational principle behind Alive in Christ religion curriculum. It is available in a parish, school, bilingual, and eBook format and can be used for various models: classroom, home school, family gathering and summer programs.

### **Confirmation Curriculum:**

Chosen: Ascension Press

### **Restored Order Curriculum:**

All: Saints Among Us (Archdiocese of Denver): Free to download and available in Spanish

### **RCIA Curriculums:**

#### **The Association for Catechumenal Ministry (ACM):**

- Leader's Manual
- Participant's Book

- Catechist's Manual

This beautiful spiral-bound book is designed to be a practical help to catechists by offering a structured yet highly-flexible way of preparing for and presenting the catechetical portion of Christian initiation sessions. Together with the companion Participant's Book, this best-selling resource allows catechists to prepare thoroughly for each meeting, and to present the faith both systematically and organically. This Manual provides users with 60 session plans, with full Scripture and Catechism references, definitions of key terms participants need to know, suggestions for music and prayers, discussion questions to use at each session, and helpful supporting appendices.

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Study Edition**

All Pastors or leaders responsible for the RCIA in their parish should have a copy of this book! This study edition of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults includes the complete text of the rite, along with additional rites for approved US dioceses; acclamations, hymns, and songs; and the National Statutes for the Catechumenate. This book is designed for priests, deacons, seminarians, theology students, and all those involved in the RCIA. A comprehensive introduction to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults provides readers with foundational knowledge of the parish catechumenate. With ample margins for notes, sturdy but flexible binding, and clearly numbered paragraphs in the introductions and text, this edition is ideal for study, reflection, and preparation of liturgy.

### **Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained**

Symbolon is a video-based series designed to be a *tool* to teach the Catholic faith. This program features 20 video and discussion sessions that brings together some of the most trusted Catholic teachers in the world to guide you through the breadth and richness of the Catholic faith. A parish is *not* encouraged to simply play a video as the formation in an RCIA process. Again, this series is to be used as a teaching *tool*, not as a replacement for a teacher.

### **Supplemental RCIA text:**

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

### **Marriage Prep**

Beloved (Augustine Institute)

Living a Joy-filled Marriage (Ascension Press)

Transformed in Love (Pauline Books and Media)

One in Christ (Midwest Theological Forum)

Witness to Love: Civil Marriage Initiative (Verret)

### **Small Group Curriculums**

#### **Teens:**

- YDisciple
- YOU

**Young Adults:**

- CCO Faith Study Series: <https://store.cco.ca/collections/faith-studies>
- Focus Equip (bible study resources for free): <https://focusoncampus.org/find-a-study>

**Adults:**

- The Great Adventure: Journey Through the Bible (Ascension Press)
  - This is a series of several studies, each focusing on a book of the bible or topic of the Church.
- Lectio (Augustine Institute)

**Other Resources:**

The Holy Bible (Catholic translations we recommend: RSV, NAB, or NABRE)

Catechism of the Catholic Church second edition

St Joseph Baltimore Catechism

Echoing the Mystery: Unlocking the Deposit of Faith in Catechesis by Barbara Morgan

YouCat

- Although, the YouCat profoundly lacks in teaching in the areas of same-sex marriage, as well as masturbation.

General Directory for Catechesis: Congregation for the Clergy

National Directory for Catechesis: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops