



St. Clare of Assisi Parish
Whole Family Catechesis
2020-2021
POLICY
THIS YEAR ONLY

Levels Available -

St. Clare of Assisi Parish Whole Family Catechesis Program offers classes for children in First through Fifth levels. (Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Levels participate in VISION, St. Clare's Middle School Program). The Whole Family Catechesis Program is an all year long model where the parent/guardian teaches the student @ home, students & parent/guardian attend 5 gatherings and the remaining requirements occur throughout the liturgical year. Children participating in the Whole Family Catechesis Program, who apply to prepare for and receive the sacraments must attend the separate preparation sessions offered by the Office of Sacrament Preparation. **Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Clare of Assisi Parish Faith Formation may offer a virtual Whole Family Catechesis program for this year only. This will be determined once we receive CDC & diocesan guidelines.**

Curriculum -

Whole Family Catechesis Program utilizes the same curriculum & textbooks that are used during the summer program. The lesson plan is built around the parent/guardian as the primary faith formation educator supported and supervised by the Pastor & Coordinator of Faith Formation. The student's catechesis will also involve attendance at six gatherings where they will work with catechists within their grade level on additional material not found in their book.

Registration -

Application to enter the Whole Family Catechesis Program is open to all but acceptance is not guaranteed. Factors such as previous behavior issues in traditional program, unsatisfactory performance, available space and if previously enrolled in an alternative model, compliance with the terms of those program's policies will be taken into consideration.

The Office of Faith Formation reserves the right to adjust the number of accepted registrations for the Whole Family Catechesis Program, annually. Admittance to the program the prior year does not guarantee a place for the student in the following year.

Upon acceptance into the program, a student's parent/guardian must acknowledge that they have completely read and fully understand the policy by signing the last page of policy statement.



Attendance -

Students & Parent/Guardian are required to attend **ALL SIX** meetings of the 2020-2021 Whole Family Catechesis Program. Meetings will be held on a Monday from 5:45 pm – 8 pm in the Swedesboro Parish Hall (unless otherwise notified). **Virtual gatherings if deemed necessary for this year only will be held on a Monday from 6 pm – 8pm. We will be utilizing ZOOM platform for the remote gatherings & Google classroom for at home assignments.** If for any reason we need to cancel or reschedule a class due to weather or emergency, the new meeting date will be scheduled & sufficient notice will be given. Parent attending without child will be counted as a missed meeting. The children are required to attend every session, this is not an option.

Meeting Dates for 2020-2021 school year have not been determined at this time

Please make every effort not to miss a meeting. In order that students learn the spiritual significance surrounding the Holy Days and the significance of the Church's liturgical calendar, Whole Family Catechesis Program students are required to attend the coming year's Liturgical or Parish Family Events held during each liturgical season. (Total of **2** are required). Advent & Lent gathering will be incorporated into one of the gatherings. Please go to **Parish Family Events** section for more information.

Communication -

As in all the programs, the Office of Faith Formation will utilize email, Remind.com, Facebook, and the Office of Faith Formation webpage as its primary form of communication with the families, throughout the year. At the beginning of each month there will be a list of activities or information available on the website, please check the website regularly. *It is solely the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the office to update e-mail addresses and phone numbers should this information change.*

Materials & Workbooks -

This year we have added an ebook version (in place of a physical textbook) grade level 3rd – 5th only, there will be an option on the registration form for you to select. These will only be ordered based on your selections on the registration form. Additional materials will be handed out or uploaded throughout the year to use with the lessons provided in your child's book.



Mass Attendance -

Church attendance is integral to formation but even greater than this, it is required of all to attend Saturday or Sunday Mass. This, and partaking of the sacraments including Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist are ever important and upon the child's acceptance into the Whole Family Catechesis Program and the parent's signing of the policy, the parent/guardian acknowledges this and promises to abide by this and all the precepts of the Catholic Church. All families will be given a copy of the precepts of the Catholic Church at the first gathering.

Always remember: the precepts of the Catholic Church are *minimum* levels of participation in the life of the Church. Out of love for Christ and a desire to advance in the spiritual life, you will normally try to do far more than they require.

Parent Handbook -

The traditional program Parent Handbook policies and conditions remain in effect inasmuch as they can be applied to the Whole Family Catechesis Program.

Parish Family Events-

When attending the events, all children from the family who are enrolled in the whole family catechesis program are asked to attend, it is not parent only or 1 out of 3 children. These events can only be completed at St. Clare, so the families can grow together within the parish community. At this time only remote events will be scheduled, but once we resume face to face interaction, the events will become available for all to attend on site. We look forward to that day really soon 😊

NEW: Your family is asked to attend (2) total events in accordance with the policy for Whole Family Gathering Policy. Advent & Lent gathering will be completed at one of the gathering. You will have the option to attend these events from your home & then once we are able to resume face to face interaction at one of the parishes campuses. Each month there will be a list of events scheduled so that you have opportunities to attend. We will schedule events in October - December & then February -March. Sign ups will be required in order to accommodate everyone & if more than one scheduled event is needed. A tentative list of events is attached to the policy.



Prayers-

All children should know their previous year level prayer for the first day of class. For example, 3rd level students will be tested on the Our Father but should be working on the Apostles Creed at home, they will be reciting the Apostles Creed in class all week. 1st level students are required to know the Sign of the Cross. A link to the prayers to know can be found on the website.

Service -

Students in the Whole Family Catechesis Program are required to provide proof of service to others in accordance with the same requirements applied to PREP students in at the same level. Summer students are welcome to participate in the Service Opportunities posted on the Office of Faith Formation website. Children are required to complete (1) Corporal Works of Mercy & (1) Spiritual Works of Mercy. 1st Service form is due no later than December 1st and 2nd Service form is due no later than March 15th. **This is in addition to the Corporal Work of Mercy the children will complete during one of the Whole Family Catechesis gatherings.**

Non-Completion -

Should a family be unable to attend all the required meetings or failure to complete all (6) requirements listed below, parent/guardian will be required to attend a meeting with the Pastor & Coordinator of Faith Formation before registering for the 2020-2021 school year. Sacrament preparation may also be delayed due to non-completion of the school year requirements.

* The Office of Faith Formation reserves the right to edit/amend and make additions to this policy.

REMEMBER:

For Levels 1 through 5 the number to remember is **6**.

- 2 Parish Family Events
- 1 Opening Mass (TBD usually occurs in September)
- 3** service opportunities (which includes service completed during one of the gatherings)
- 6** requirements



ONCE YOUR CHILD/REN'S ENROLLMENT INTO Whole Family Catechesis IS ACCEPTED
PLEASE DETACH, SIGN & BRING THIS PAGE ONLY TO THE FIRST GATHERING HELD

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By signing below, I acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understand the policy.

Child/ren's Names:

Parent's Signature _____

Today's Date _____



Parish
Family Events
(tentative schedule – subject to change)

Events for each grade level are listed below. These events are scheduled as virtual events at this time. Once on-site events resume, the Office of Faith Formation will notify families as to changes/alterations to the below schedule of events.

Each family will choose 1 event from each semester group to participate. More information for events, along with criteria, will go out once program has begun. This is a tentative list & subject to change.

Semester 1 Parish Events

- October** **Blessing of Animals** – all grade levels may participate
- Faith Formation weekend Mass** - grade levels 1st & 3rd – 5th
- Family Rosary** - sign up required - ZOOM gathering** - grade levels 2nd – 5th
- November** **Family Day of Service** - grade levels 3rd – 5th
- Family Rosary - sign up required - ZOOM gathering** - grade levels 2nd – 5th

Semester 2 Parish Events

- February** **Family Day of Service** - all grade levels may participate
- Rice Bowl Mass** - all grade levels may participate
- Family Rosary** - sign up required - ZOOM gathering** - grade levels 2nd – 5th
- March** **Stations of the Cross** - grade levels 3rd – 5th
- Family Rosary** - sign up required - ZOOM gathering** - grade levels 2nd – 5th
- April** **Closing Mass** - all grade levels may participate

**family rosary - if room permits you are welcome to attend all scheduled rosary gatherings but only can use 1x for a requirement