

The Catechetical Correspondence Courses: When Children Are Not In the Catholic School System

The Sacramental Guidelines suggest that the Catechetical Correspondence Courses may be an important part of a child's foundational and ongoing catechesis when he or she is not enrolled in the Catholic School System.

Benefits of the Catechetical Correspondence Courses:

- Not just for Sacramental Preparation
- Volunteer catechists available to mark lessons and correspond with students – some catechists are parish-based, some serve several parishes throughout the diocese – all have access to orientation sessions, ongoing training and retreats provided by the Catechesis Office
- Catechists report to parishes as to the progress of each student
- Materials are made for use in the home with parent support
- Children in this program can be invited to any parish meetings you may be hosting with children who are in the Catholic School System – no need for separate meetings
- Materials have supports for “Family Catechesis” sessions too

For further information on resources available or finding or training of catechists, please contact Anne Jamieson in the Catechesis Office 905-528-7988, ext. 2251.

Our Programs for Ongoing, Foundational Catechesis:

From Sadlier – WE BELIEVE SERIES and Loyola Press—*“Confirmed in the Spirit”*

Kindergarten: GOD MADE THE WORLD

Inspires a five-year old to wonder and marvel at God’s world.

Program One: GOD LOVES US

Invites young believers into a personal encounter with God.

Program Two: JESUS SHARES GOD’S LIFE

An excellent program to prepare for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Program Three: WE ARE THE CHURCH

Emphasis is placed on the Holy Spirit and the importance of Mass.

Program Four: GOD’S LAW GUIDES US

Explores the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments in-depth.

Program Five: WE MEET JESUS IN THE SACRAMENTS

Presents detailed descriptions of the Sacraments as signs in which Jesus meets with us.

Program Six: WE ARE GOD’S PEOPLE

Invites young believers into a deeper understanding of God’s Word in the Bible.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

A course on Jesus Christ and His Disciples.

CONFIRMED IN THE SPIRIT

A beautiful and rich program for all students preparing for Confirmation.

Programs for Older Students:

Our Catholic Faith, Liturgy and Worship, The Creed, Church History, Morality

For Children Preparing for Sacraments We Recommend:

FOR BAPTISM

For a child 5 to 7 years of age who may need some catechesis prior to Baptism, “*Program 1 – God Loves Us*” gives a good description of how we become part of a family and how our parish is like a family.

FOR FIRST COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

“*Program Two – Jesus Shares God’s Life*” – excellent preparation for these sacraments along with general instruction on the importance of Mass, the Liturgical Year, and How We Live As Catholics

For older students, grades 3 to 6, who have never had First Communion, we recommend “*Program Five – We Meet Jesus in the Sacraments*”

FOR CONFIRMATION

“*Confirmed in the Spirit*” is a beautiful program to prepare students for Confirmation. It comes with an excellent journal for student reflection.

WHERE MORE HELP IS NEEDED ...

“*Our Catholic Faith*” is a small program that offers a good overview of the faith and can be helpful for students in grades 5 to 9 who have had little formal religious instruction or where the family needs some support.

The Catechesis Office always directs students in the Catechetical Correspondence Courses to their Parish.

Our brochure states:

If your child is preparing to receive any Sacrament you will need to contact your parish to make the actual arrangements for the reception of the Sacrament. Be sure to ask about any parent meetings or student retreats that the parish may host.