

**Application to Participate in Family-Based Virtual Religious Education Approach**

**For Children and Youth in Grade Levels 1 through 8**

**For October 2020 through May 2021**

**Agreement and Application**

**St. Catherine Laboure/St. Colman  
200 Tuytenbridge Rd.  
Lake Katrine, NY 12449**

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*(To be submitted to the Parish Director of Religious Education)*

Effective Religious Education is rooted in a deeply Catholic family life. The parents\* form the faith of the child by recognizing the person of Jesus as the center of the family, by adhering to Gospel values and the teachings of the Church, by praying together regularly in the home, by participating in the sacramental life of the parish, especially the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy, and by participating in the life and mission of the parish and of the Church.

All formal parish religious education of children and youth is directed by the parish Director of Religious Education under the authority of the Pastor. Its purpose is to help the children/youth grow as loving disciples of Jesus, living their Catholic commitment within the community of His disciples that is the parish community.

**Parish Religious Education faithfully provides the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church:**

**1.) By commissioning Catechists approved by the Pastor to teach the faith in the parish.**

The Catholic Church identifies six fundamental responsibilities of all catechists: to teach the knowledge of the faith, to give moral formation, to provide liturgical education, to teach to pray, to educate for life in the parish community, and to help those being taught to understand that through their Baptism they are called to share in the mission of Jesus.

**2.) By using textbooks and resources approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).**

In the Archdiocese of New York this is accomplished by following the *Archdiocesan Guidelines for Catechesis, Grades K through 6 and Grades 7 and 8*. Therefore, the parish Director of Religious Education must select for the educational process, textbooks and online materials that are in accord with these Guidelines.

For 2020-2021, the Parish Religious Education Program offers its families a choice between two basic approaches of systematic weekly Religious Education for children/youth in Grades 1 through 8. In both approaches, children/youth should receive 90 minutes of religious education a week for 26 weeks from October through May. The required registration and tuition for Parish Religious Education remain the same for both approaches. The approaches are:

**1.) The weekly, onsite Parish Religious Education Approach:** the child attends weekly religious education sessions of 90 minutes each, given by a parish- catechist at the parish, with continual supportive participation provided by the parents in the home.

**2.) The Family-Based Parish Religious Education Approach:** the child is given weekly religious education sessions by the parent-catechist in the home for a total of 90 minutes a week for 3 weeks. In the fourth week, the child and the parent-catechist go to the parish and attend a 90-minute session. During this session, parish catechists teach the children; the director of religious education guides and teaches the parent.

If necessitated by the pandemic, these meetings can be done by phone or through online meetings.

**N.B. In keeping with safe environment policy, the parent-catechists may only teach their own children.**

*\* For the sake of brevity, only the word “parent” will be used throughout but the intent is to refer to either the parent or the guardian as the case may be.*

*\* The title “Director of Religious Education” is used throughout and refers to the Administrator of the Parish Religious Education Program whether that person be a Director or a Coordinator of Religious Education.*

## **Requirements for Family-Based Virtual Parish Religious Education Approach**

1. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Catholic faith. Weekly attendance at Sunday Mass is required.
2. In keeping with the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Policy, parents may provide Family-Based Parish Religious Education **only to their own children**.
3. The Parish Religious Education Program registration form must be completed and all tuition fees paid.
4. The parent-catechist and the child meet at the parish at least once a month from October through May. The length of this session is a minimum of 90 minutes. (If necessitated by the pandemic, these meetings can be done by phone or through online meetings.)

- The child meets with the parish-catechist to assess the child’s grasp of the content assigned for this time period. The catechist will reinforce or further develop the content as needed. The catechist who works with the child will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of the program .

The parent-catechist meets with the director who will provide direction and guidance for the religious education process and prepare the parent-catechist to teach the next month’s content.

It is the responsibility of the Director of Religious Education to maintain ongoing supervision and evaluation of the Parish Family-Based Religious Education process.

The schedule of these monthly meetings is provided in September by the parish Director of Religious Education. If for a valid reason such as illness, the family cannot attend one session, arrangements must be made with the director to make up the session.

5. As part of this approach, there are additional parish events which the family is expected to attend. The parish Director of Religious Education will provide a list of these events. .

6. **The child will be given an assessment in January and in May.** These assessments are to be a comprehensive test on the learning that has taken place during the previous semester.

7. In order for the child to advance to the next grade level, all requirements for the Religious Education Program must be met and a 70% correct response must be achieved on each of the learning assessments\*.

8. As part of the year's curriculum, the parent-catechist provides ongoing instruction on the meaning of the Sacraments. Immediate preparation for the Sacraments is done in the parish by a parish-catechist because reception of the Sacraments is an essential dimension of life in the parish community.

9. If a parent or child cannot meet a requirement, the parish Director of Religious Education with the Pastor's approval will try to provide an appropriate alternate plan to fulfill the requirement.

\* This Requirement does not apply to children/youth with special needs.

**Section One:**

Name(s) of Custodial Parent(s) or Guardian

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Name of person who is requesting to be the parent-catechist for the child/children:

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Contact information of person who will be parent-catechist for the child/children :

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email:

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Name and mailing address of parent/guardian in whose home the child resides:

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**Section Two:**

Name(s) of child/children who will participate in this program:

Last Name	First Name	Birth Date	Grade	Grade in	Copy
Baptism					
			in school	Rel Educ.	Cert
submitted					

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**Section Three:**

***The following two "yes" lines must be checked in order for the parent to enter into this program:***

Have you read the requirements of the Family-Based Parish Religious Education Approach and do you agree that you and your child/children understand and will abide by these requirements?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

In keeping with Archdiocesan Safe Environment policies, do you agree to teach only your own children?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

Have you read the ZOOM Safe Environment Settings for attendance of virtual meetings?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

Custodial Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Custodial Parent name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent-Catechist signature (if different from Custodial Parent)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Child signature

(Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Child name (print):

\_\_\_\_\_

If there are more children than one who will participate, they sign and print name below.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Religious Education Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*After receiving your application, the Director of Religious Education will schedule a meeting with you to discuss your participation in the program.*