

St Francis of Assisi

Religious Education FAQ Sheet

What ages are served?

We serve the children of registered parish families with the following program:

1st Grade through Junior High (Grades 1 through 8)

Where do the children meet?

All sessions are held in the St Francis Center. Some of the larger parent meetings or sacramental activities are held at the Church.

When do the children meet?

Grades 1-8 sessions are held on Tues, Wed, Thurs & Saturday from September—May. Families may choose the day their child attends, as long as space is available. Once sessions have begun, however, new children are placed wherever there is room and/or a catechist. The groups meet on alternating weeks. We will also continue to offer a REMOTE Option.

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
Alternating weeks, starting WEEK OF LABOR DAY		Grades 1-8, 4:30-6:00pm	Grades 1-8, 4:30-6:00pm	Grades 1-8, 8:30-10:00am
Alternating weeks, starts the FOLLOWING WEEK [B]	Grades 1-8, 4:30-6:00pm	Grades 1-8, 4:30-6:00pm		

Who are the Catechists?

Our catechists are adult volunteers from our parish, dedicated to sharing their faith with the children of St Francis. All volunteers complete a packet that includes a parish application, DCFS background check, and the required Archdiocesan forms and seminars. Throughout the year, we offer adult faith formation opportunities for all of our catechists. We also have a resource room that includes a series of training videos. Catechists who attend the faith formation sessions can work toward certification. We encourage all of our catechists to become certified.

Classes are limited to 10 children to create a welcoming community in which the children are initiated into the Catholic faith, and to allow for social distancing. RE Staff develops an outline for each session, that catechists follow. For Grades 1-8, the textbook has an online portal that can be used if a child misses class and for REMOTE class.

How do the children prepare for the reception of sacraments?

Our program is based on the assumption that our grade 1-8 children attend each session as well as participate in all parish activities, especially the weekly celebration of Mass. In addition, all our parish families (whether RE or Cardinal Bernardin School) attend extra lessons and/or activities for sacramental preparation. Children celebrate the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist after two years of religious education (usually in second grade). Children in fourth grade will also prepare for a more age-appropriate celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Junior High student (grades 7 & 8) spend two years preparing for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.