

Home Schooling Policy

The National Directory for Catechesis states “School-age children should receive formal and systematic catechesis that fosters a sense of community that is an important part of education for social life.”

Saints Peter and Paul Religious Education Program embraces this concept and therefore, except for the reasons noted below, children of the parish who do not attend Catholic school should be enrolled in the religious education program. Home schooling in catechesis is discouraged except in the following circumstances and is to be discussed with the Executive Director of Religious Education and the Pastor prior to commencement of any such home schooling:

- Instances of severe learning disabilities
- Existence of severe behavioral difficulty
- Severe physical disability (SSPP is ADA compliant and this point would only apply to those disabilities that would completely limit the participation of the student.)
- Your child is home-schooled for all other educational curriculum

Under those circumstances where home schooling has been approved by the Executive Director of Religious Education and the Pastor, the following criteria will apply:

- Attendance at catechist formation sessions will be required of parents wishing to home-school their children.
- Attendance of the student at those parish sessions required for sacramental preparation. The number and frequency of the sessions will be determined by the Executive Director of Religious Education and will be dependent on the sacrament being received. This also includes any retreats, parent meetings and rehearsals required for the sacrament.
- Home-school parents are to use the same catechetical materials being used in parish sessions, currently the *Faith and Life* series by Ignatius Press.
- The Diocese of Joliet requires a two-year catechetical formation period prior to the reception of a sacrament. Children must be no less than 7 years of age for the sacrament of First Eucharist and no less than 12 years of age to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Home-schooled students must complete required service hours, as applicable, and submit proper documentation to the Religious Education Office.
- Those students who are home-schooled will be required to pass adequate testing (appropriate to their disability as applicable) to validate the faith learning process.
- It is expected that the home-schooled child will be brought to celebrate the Sunday Eucharist, sacraments are regularly received (Reconciliation and Eucharist as applicable), and the importance of doing charitable works is stressed.
- Family must be registered parishioners.

Additionally, because the students who regularly attend religious education will be held to certain standards of comprehension, any student enrolling who has not participated in the parish religious education program the previous year will be required to take a proficiency exam to determine the appropriate grade level in which he/she will be placed.

Any exceptions to this policy require the authorization of both the Pastor and Executive Director of Religious Education.

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