

4. Faith Formation Programs

A. Children's Religious Education

School-age children should receive formal and systematic catechesis in a parish-based catechetical program, a Catholic school, or a program of home-based catechesis in which the content of the faith and the experience of the Christian life are presented authentically and completely (NDC 48 E, 2).

Each year, every school-aged child registered in the parish must be invited to enroll in one of the three forms of parish faith formation:

- **Catholic School**
- **Homeschool**
- **Parish Religious Education Classes (including Family Faith Formation and Atriums)**

Catechetical programs for children who attend public schools should be offered for:

- **Preschool-kindergarten children**
- **Elementary and middle school children (Grades 1-8 are required)**
- **High School Youths**

Religious Education should always be suited to the age, circumstances, and learning capacities of children and accommodate for those with special learning needs (physical or mental disabilities).

Every effort must be made to welcome children who wish to attend on site classes into the parish programs.

By the end of a child's elementary school years (by the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation), all basic truths of the Catholic Church will have been taught and learned. Please refer to the Standards of Learning for content to be taught by grade.

Cell Phone and Smart Watch Policy

Youth and adults should not have or be using their cell phones/smart watches during catechetical and/or youth ministry events. To assist in this policy, please:

- **Remind parents that there is no need for cell/smart phones during religious education/youth events.**
- **Provide a box for the youth to turn-in (and from which to retrieve) their cell phones before (and after) the class/event. Please remember these are valuable objects and should be supervised by an adult. Best practice: have the youth put their name on masking tape and attach it to their phone prior to placing it in the cell phone box.**
- **Please remind parents that during faith formation events, they too, are not to be using their Cell Phones/Smart Watches as they are to be engaged in the provided programming.**