

# SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART CATECHETICAL PROGRAMS 2020-2021

## 1. IN GENERAL:

We are following the **Archdiocesan guidelines** regarding all matters related to catechetical instruction and other parish gatherings. We are in direct communication with the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office and we will comply with all revised guidelines.

## 2. CATECHISTS

This year the priests on the parish staff will be working more closely with the volunteer catechists. Together they will be meeting regularly to plan and evaluate the various programs and if necessary, make any adjustments.

--The Spanish speaking program has been divided into three smaller groups: (1) Fr. Emilio and catechists will attend the P-K to 2nd grade and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion groups, (2) Fr. Carlos and catechists will attend the 3rd-6th grade groups, (3) Monica Zevallos and catechists will attend the 7th-8th grade and Confirmation groups.

--Fr. Diogo, Deacon Keon and catechists will attend the English-speaking programs.

--Fr. Luc and catechists will attend the Haitian-Creole programs.

--Fr. Francis and catechists will attend the Vietnamese programs.

## 3. DATES:

We are projecting that the catechetical programs may begin as early as **Sunday October 4, 2020.** This date has been chosen in order to provide an adequate period of time for the parents, children and family members to make adjustments to schedules.

## 4. LOCATION:

**Our Sacred Heart School will have exclusive use of the school facilities.** The school has registered 220 students and will eventually begin In-Person classes. The school will be regularly and carefully sanitized to maintain safety in the environment. We want to contribute to the peace of mind of the school staff by not using these facilities for catechetical instruction.

In the past, the Spanish speaking catechetical program has registered from 600-800 students each year and has used these same classrooms during various sessions all day Sunday and on Wednesday nights. The English-speaking catechetical program has usually registered less than 70 students and has used the Sacred Heart Academy. This year we will find and use a combination of other venues. The Sacred Heart Academy, the open area in the Gavan Center, the Gavan Center classrooms, the large Rectory dining room and the Rectory basement classroom may be used for some smaller gatherings while maintaining social distancing. The fenced-in patio area between the Church and Park Road may also be used. We will also encourage the use of other indoor and outdoor spaces, including home schooling.

## 5. THE FORM OF CATECHESIS

The Sacred Heart Parish Staff and volunteer catechists will work to accompany and assist the parents in their role as the primary catechists of their own children. We will support the parents and guardians in **choosing** the manner in which catechesis may be imparted to their children by trying to accommodate their requests.

## 6. **SOME PROPOSALS**

These options are provided to help the catechists accompany the parents in the faith development of their children. By offering separate small group catechesis in a variety of settings, we hope to lessen the possibility of contamination by not exposing a child to **ALL** of the children in the catechetical program on a regular basis.

**A. IN-PERSON CATECHESIS:** When the traditional in-person classroom catechesis is followed, all of the guidelines for in-person school education must be applied to the catechetical environment.

1. In-person, in one of the parish facilities.
2. In-person, outdoor gathering in a private yard and home of a catechist or member of the Church. The parents must be present.
3. In-person, outdoor gathering in a public area. The parents must be present.
4. In-person, home learning in the home of the child under the guidance of a parent and/or family member. The catechist may direct but is not present.

### **B. VIRUAL CATECHESIS**

1. Zoom Meetings The Archdiocese has published a 10-point document entitled "Child Protection Expectations for Online Gathering." Note that the parent or guardian must sign a "Permission and Release/Waiver Form" and that two (2) VIRTUS certified catechist must be on the call from the beginning until the end. following ADW document for "Online gathering."
2. Via Computer through recordings: The primary catechist or other visiting professional catechists may share pre-recorded catechetical instructions.
3. Via Computer: by sharing religious movies and other religious and cultural programs.
4. In-person, home learning in the home of the child under the guidance of a parent and/or family member. The catechist may direct but is not present.

**C. HOME LEARNING** in the home of the child under the guidance of a parent and/or family member. The catechist may direct but is not present.

For parents who wish to conduct catechesis in the home, please visit our Parish website: <https://sacredheartdc.org> to see the entire Loyola Press Catechetical series with user and printer friendly versions.

**D. HYBRID MODEL:** The hybrid model will offer the child some degree of "in person human interaction" using a combination of the methods explained above.

7. **CURRICULUM** will follow Archdiocesan norms for this "Covid-19 Catechetical Year."

8. **THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE** will include both the content and the manner of meeting.  
(Please see attached calendar to be worked out by each Catechetical group)