

Christ the King Parish
Haddonfield, New Jersey
Home School Guidelines

Dear Home School Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Offering a Home School Program is beneficial to the parents on many levels. This gives the opportunity for growth in faith as a family and forming the individual child or children. The privilege of home school is approved under many different circumstances. It may be the commitment of time, learning challenges or other viable reasons such as the parent/guardian's desire to take on the formal teaching of the Catholic Faith in the home. Rest assured we are happy to work with you every step of this important journey of faith. Application to the program is subject to the approval of the Director of Religious Education. All required paperwork is to be submitted to the RE office prior to the startup meeting. At this meeting you will receive your books and begin the home schooling curriculum.

Our curriculum based program is one that follows the Catechism of the Catholic Church and has been approved by the USCCB Conformity Listing of Textbooks and Series. With a commitment to home school from you, the parent/guardian, the religious education office will be providing you a syllabus that closely follows the liturgical year, and also a calendar to remind you of events and special participation activities. Our hope is that every family is active in the life of the church and practices all of the Catholic teachings through faithful Mass presence and participation in service to the community and to our church. A service journal (provided in the startup packet) is a wonderful way to document and show the child/children how we are each called to serve others.

Our main source of communication is via E-mail. Parents must send the required monthly lesson plans to the assigned email address which will help us track your progress. We also have a mid-year and end of year meetings for review. The first meeting will take place in January and the second meeting will take place in May/June. This will include you and your child/children at these meetings. These guidelines are required as part of the home school program and are to achieve the gained level of understanding of the material that has been presented in the textbook. In December and April review sheets will be forwarded to you with the basic material taken directly from the student's workbook.

When meeting with children we are aware that they may not be comfortable articulating about faith and faith subjects. Our measures intend to equip you, the parent or guardian, with an easy to follow curriculum and a comprehensive review procedure in order for you to create a comfortable learning environment at home. The goal is to develop an ever-increasing excitement in the child/children for learning about God, and present the basic knowledge of faith, prayers, and precepts of the Church. This holds true in our classroom model as well. Religious education students are from the beginning held to the same standards.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Religious Education by calling 856-429-1600 x 108.

Sincerely in Jesus Christ,

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Christ the King Parish Home School Guidelines

- Student(s), Parent(s), Guardian(s), DRE, and Home School Coordinator form an agreement/partnership to the following:
 - Following a syllabus containing material to be covered each week – keeping studies consistent.
 - Submitting a monthly completed lesson plan (email) stating what was covered (not what you are intending to cover but what was actually covered).
 - Participating in all other activities
 - Family Faith Gatherings 1 – 2 times a year.
 - Reconciliation
 - Stations of the Cross
 - Weekly Sunday Liturgy
 - Annual Religion Fair
 - Meeting with DRE or HS Coordinator 2-3 times a year to review completed work and textbook (Mid-year and End of the Year Reviews)
- Home School Families receive:
 - Student text for each student
 - Teacher manual (on loan) for each grade
 - Calendar and Syllabus
 - Bible (if needed)
 - Supplemental material
 - Full access to RE video library

While home schooling may not be for everyone, this is an excellent opportunity to develop a strong family faith foundation. Since 1965, the Church has declared that “since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators” (Declaration on Christian Education #3). The Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms these words of Pope Paul VI in #2223, “parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children”.

Home schooling requires a strong dedication and discipline. Home School provides a more personal and flexible atmosphere, learning at home in a more comfortable setting is sometimes more acceptable to your child’s learning ability. But do not have the misconception that Home School is simple and an easy alternative to a classroom model. The Home School choice is a serious undertaking and must be given continuous attention.

Justification for charging full tuition:

1. There will be a gatherings for the entire family which will include a hospitality.
2. Each home school family receives a loaner teacher manual for the grade.
3. Each student receives a student book.
4. The Office of Religious Education will conduct periodic monitoring to ensure everyone is on track with the syllabus.
5. All student files still must be maintained by the director and office assistant.

Diocese of Camden Home School Guidelines

400.4 POLICY FOR HOME SCHOOLING

The “deposit of faith” as described in 1 Tim 6:20 “is like the treasure of a householder; it is entrusted to the Church, the family of God” (GDC #94). It is the responsibility of the Magisterium of the Church to ensure that each generation receives the message of Christ in its entirety.

400.4.1 Rationale for Home Schooling

Parents are their children’s primary educators, but not their only educators. When it comes to religion, due consideration must be given to the role of the Church as the Mother for humankind. She “begets children conceived by the power of the Spirit and born of God. In her role as Mother, the Church is also the educator in faith (GDC #79). The teaching Church, therefore, has the responsibility to preserve the integrity of Christian doctrine --the revealed truth that comes from Jesus Christ --whenever that doctrine is conveyed.

The General Directory for Catechesis states that, “Catechesis is an essentially ecclesial act” (GDC #78). Individuals are created and called uniquely to be part of the People of God, the Church. Formation in faith, therefore, ideally, takes place within the context of the community of the People of God. Parents fulfill their obligation to educate their children in knowledge of their faith by enrolling them in schools of religion. In this environment, children learn not just doctrine, but have the opportunity to experience the communal aspect of their Faith in a learning environment.

While Catholic Schools or Parish Programs are the preferred environments for Religious Education, there may arise a family situation that makes it difficult for a child to participate in a regular program. In these circumstances, both parents and the teaching church are to be respected in the dialogue of home-schooling because of their unique, distinct charisms to propagate the faith of the church. Parents are obligated to fulfill their duties, as are priests and bishops, and all must cooperate in this single endeavor to educate in Christ’s name.

400.4.2 Procedure to be followed for Homeschooling

Parents wishing to home-school their children must meet with their pastor/ administrator who are ultimately responsible for the catechesis that takes place within the parish. With the input of the catechetical leader the determination concerning home-schooling is made based on an understanding of the practice of faith within the given family and the capability of the parents to do this.

Due concern needs to be made to insure that complete catechesis takes place. Therefore, provisions must be made for the families to meet with the pastor/ administrator or his parish catechetical leader on a periodic basis to monitor the catechetical development of the children being home-schooled. This catechesis must be in accord with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, The General Directory for Catechesis, the Diocesan Religion Curriculum Guide and the approved parish religious education textbooks which are tailored to the mental, emotional, spiritual, and psychological development of each child in the family being home-schooled.

Parents must have access to the materials they will need in order to catechize properly. They also need to be in regular communication with the parish catechetical office so that they will be kept abreast of classes and workshops that are being offered that will be of assistance to them as the catechists of their children.

All families opting for home-schooling are expected to participate in the regular liturgical and sacramental life of the parish.

Parents of home-schooled children are urged to provide regular interaction and involvement between their children and Catholic peers especially when such involvement is possible as part of parish-sponsored events. In this way both they and the Catholic community are built up and strengthened.

400.4.3 Re-admittance into Parish Religious Education Program

To rejoin the Parish Religious Education Program, the children will be tested according to their particular grade level to ascertain their readiness based on the Diocesan Curriculum Guidelines for their particular level.

400.4.4 Homeschooling and Sacramental Preparation

Families opting for home-schooling must follow all diocesan guidelines pertaining to reception of first sacraments. Parents, in direct communication with the parish catechetical program, are to attend all parent sessions.

Children are to participate in retreats, rehearsals, interviews, service requirements, and any other formational activities that are offered by the parish in accordance with diocesan policies and procedures.

400.4.5 Resources for Homeschooling

The pastor/administrator and parish catechetical leader act as resource persons for those parents who home-school to answer any questions and to make recommendations for materials for use by the parents so that the children may come to a comprehensive understanding of their faith and a sincere desire to know and love Jesus Christ.

400.4.6 Home-Schooling and Safe Environment

The parish is usually where formal catechetical instruction takes place. Religious education by catechists, youth ministry and other events involving minors are not to occur in personal residences. Adults who choose to ignore this and meet with minors in people's homes place themselves and the minors at risk and are personally liable should any negative event occur.