Christ the King Church

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 families to grow in faith by formally teaching your child. 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 and will provide you with the necessary resources to home school.

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 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 through faithful Mass presence and participation in service to the community.

The two primary components of the program are family-led teaching and family-lived faith. To demonstrate your own family’s progress, we ask that you submit:

* A lesson plan at the end of each month describing the material you covered that month.
* Eight family reflection papers over the course of the year (see details below).

Family Reflection Papers – We ask all students and family to decide on **at least eight experiences**, including those from the list of parish offerings as well as other, family-led spiritual enrichment activities and **submit a reflection paper on each experience.** These spiritual experiences are meant to be spread out throughout the year. As you complete an experience, spend some time discussing it with family members at home. Write down (or draw) your experience and submit the reflection to Helen Polzer.

This year, we have updated our online presence. Monthly lesson plans and reflection papers can be submitted via two online forms (links on the website and in your welcome email). If your child wants to draw or write down their experience on paper, please attach a photo of the reflection to the online form or submit the hardcopy to the office. If you have any questions, concerns, or resources you would like to share, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the Homeschool email address: ctkhomeschoolre@gmail.com.

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. The goal is to develop an ever-increasing excitement in the student for learning about God and present the basic knowledge of faith, prayers, and precepts of the Church.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Religious Education by calling 856-429-1600 ext. 105.

Sincerely in Jesus Christ,

 Ms. Helen Polzer Mrs. Dolores Mozzillo

Echo Parish Apprentice Director of Religious Education

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* 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.
* Participating in all other activities
	+ - Family Mass Gatherings (once a month October to June)
		- Reconciliation
		- Stations of the Cross
		- Weekly Sunday Liturgy
		- Annual Religion Fair
		- Home School Families receive:
* Student text for each student
* Family Book guide for each grade
* Calendar and Syllabus
* List of liturgical and spiritual offerings
* Bible (if needed)
* Supplemental material
* Additional online resources

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. Each home school family receives a Family Book guide for the grade.
2. Each student receives a student textbook.
3. The Office of Religious Education will conduct periodic monitoring to ensure

every student is on track with the syllabus.

1. All student files must be maintained by the religious education office.
2. Covers the expense of speaker fees and hospitality costs.

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 ensure 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.