

# Abbreviated Structure of the Family Catechesis Model for Religious Education

1. The basic structure of Family Catechesis is one which recognizes the role of parents as primary educators. The role of the catechist is to facilitate the process of parents forming their children in the faith.
2. The practical weekly exercise of this process is as follows:
  - **The first week** of religious education within any given month consists in the **Catechist** mentoring and guiding the children in the catechetical lesson at the parish.  
\*\*\*The role of the **Catechist**, in addition to leading the children in their lesson at the parish, will be to provide parents with specific handouts and instructions on how to engage their child at home on what the children just covered at the parish as well as instructions on how to come into the parish classroom the next week to help lead the lesson.
  - **The second week** of religious education then consists in the **Parents** coming into the parish classroom and teaching along with the Catechist. The Catechist serves as a guide and mentor to the parents during this time.
  - **The third week** of religious education follows the pattern of the first week.
  - **The fourth week** of religious education follows the pattern of the second week.
  - At the end of the month, the parish holds a communal Family Day which consists of Mass, Adoration, Confession, meal, and communal lesson.
3. Within this family catechesis structure, two weeks are given to each doctrine. As such, two doctrines are covered in the four weeks. While children are in the parish classroom every week, parents come into the parish classroom twice a month. The importance of parents engaging their children at home must be stressed.
4. The diocesan standard of 25-30 weekly parish religious education sessions per year (as printed in the [General Catechetical Guidelines](#)) is to be maintained.
5. **Sacramental Preparation** within the Family Catechesis model follows the [governing diocesan documents regarding sacramental preparation](#).
6. The Family Catechesis model is an option, **NOT** a mandate! If it is to be exercised, it should operate with the understanding that it may not fit the needs of all families in your parish. As such, if it is employed, it may need to be utilized in conjunction with the traditional classroom model (as well as the homeschool option) to accommodate everyone in your parish.