CONTACT TIMES FOR CATECHESIS

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES TEACHES:

“All the baptized, because they are called by God to maturity of faith, need and have therefore a right to adequate catechesis. It is thus a primary responsibility of the church to respond to this in a fitting and satisfactory manner” (General Directory for Catechesis #167).

“Catechesis based on different age groups is an essential task of the Christian community. Catechesis, therefore, is given by right on the basis of diverse and complementary age groups, on account of the needs and capacity of its recipients” (General Directory for Catechesis #171).

“Special consideration is given to the relationship between catechesis and the teaching of religion in schools, since both activities are profoundly interconnected, and together with education in the Christian home, are basic to the formation of children and young people” (General Directory for Catechesis #60).

THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

1. Sufficient time for formal catechetical instruction is to be planned throughout the year.

2. Calendars should reflect the priority of the intentional learning objectives while incorporating the other catechetical dimensions of liturgy, service, and community building into the overall schedule.

3. Attendance at Liturgy, singing practice, service projects and social events are to be scheduled in addition to the hours of catechetical instruction.
CONTACT TIMES FOR CATECHESIS

GUIDELINES

ELEMENTARY

- Catholic School
  - Kindergarten: 100 minutes per week.
  - Grades 1 through 8: 150 to 225 minutes per week.
- Parish CCD
  - A minimum of 36 hours scheduled consistently throughout the year.

JUNIOR HIGH

- Catholic School and Parish Processes
  - An additional 14 hours for liturgical, service, and social opportunities are to be scheduled beyond the 36 required hours for instruction.

HIGH SCHOOL

- Catholic School
  - 200 to 225 minutes per week.
- Parish Youth Ministry
  - A minimum of 25 hours scheduled throughout the year.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

- Hours for immediate preparation for first reception of sacraments are to be planned for candidates in addition to the regular catechetical program.