



Office of Faith Formation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry
Directory for Catechesis

CONTACT TIMES FOR CATECHESIS

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES TEACHES:

“Everyone of the baptized called to maturity of faith, has the right to adequate catechesis. It is therefore the Church’s task to respond to this in a satisfactory manner” (Directory of Catechesis, #244).

“It is therefore reasonable to offer pathways of catechesis that vary based on the participants’ different needs, ages, and states of life” (Directory of Catechesis, #225)

“Quite early on, the name catechesis was given to the totality of the Church’s efforts to make disciples, to help men believe that Jesus is the Son of God so that believing they might have life in his name, and to educate and instruct them in this life, thus, building up the body of Christ” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #4)

“Catechesis is an education in the faith of children, young people, and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #5)

THE OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION AND LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY 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 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 within the hours for other formative experiences.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

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