



Catechism Policy 2024-2025

General Policies

- At your child(ren)'s baptism, you, as parents, accepted the responsibility to educate them in the practice of the faith, and to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us. This responsibility cannot be renounced, and remains both your duty and your right as parents.
- Now that religion is no longer taught in schools, the church seeks to assist you in the carrying out of these responsibilities by offering our catechism program.

Specific Policies (ATTENTION TO TWO NEW POLICY)

- **NEW** - Throughout the year at each level, there will be a mandatory field trip for all children to attend. Whether the child attends catechism **in person** or is taught at **home**.
- **NEW** - Our catechism program will encompass 3 to 4 activities in the Church throughout the year for each level. Whether the child attends catechism **in person** or is taught at **home**.
- Registration in our 'Be My Disciples' Catechism Program raises the expectation that you and your child(ren) will participate **fully** and **accordingly**.
- Our 'Be My Disciples' Catechism Program is offered from **levels 2 to 5** and runs for **21 weeks** throughout the school year (October to April).
- At our parish, the sacraments of First Confession and First Communion are received in **level 3** and the Sacrament of Confirmation is received in **level 5**.
- Each child needs to complete **2 years** of catechism **prior** to each sacrament.
- The Catholic faith is not just knowledge; it is about a relationship with **God**, in which our human families come together to form the family of God.

Parent meetings and mass attendance

- Parent(s) meetings in September, October & in January are mandatory, as you will receive all forms, information and catechetical instructions for the year.
- Mass attendance (Saturday at 5 pm or Sunday at 11 am) is **obligatory** by all **children** enrolled in catechism, **accompanied by their parents**, in order to receive the **20 stamps**.
- Many families grow to see mass as a highpoint of their week, where they can grow in love with God and meet other families supportive of their catholic values.

Home Program

- **You** are responsible for guiding your child(ren) in the **completion** of their workbook and **supplementary material** that will be provided through our website, according to the schedule we provide.
- **Attendance** will be taken by **submission** of the **chapter review** (**online** at www.bemydisciples.com)
- You **must submit** your chapter review with your **full name** and send it to faithandfamily@mmaparish.ca.
- For the **home groups**, there will be a mandatory **workbook checks** (dates to be determined)
- **Failure** to **submit** chapter reviews by the **following Sunday** in your schedule will result as an **absence**.

- After **4** absences, our team will **sit with you** to discuss the readiness of your child(ren) and take appropriate measures to either continue the program or ask you to **re-register** for the same level the following year.

Rehearsals

- Rehearsals for sacraments happening in 2025 are **mandatory** for the child, parents and godparents.
- **Failure** to show up for rehearsal will result in **cancelling** the child's sacrament.

Photos

- **Registration** to our catechism program gives us permission to **use images** taken at events for use on our website and our church bulletin.

Payments

- Catechism fees are payable at **registration time** and are **non-refundable**.
- If you require a **special financial arrangement**, please **e-mail** faithandfamily@mmaparish.ca.

Responsibilities

- We wish that the catechism program follows a climate of **respect** for all concerned: children, parents, volunteers, and coordinators.
- We expect the same level of **commitment** as you give to school, sports programs, and other activities in your child(ren)'s lives.
- Parents are free to **withdraw** their child(ren) & celebrate the sacraments elsewhere (**NO refunds, NO exceptions**).
- Our team reserves the right to ask a family to withdraw their child if the requirements are **not** being fulfilled or for **any** serious reasons.