



# Archdiocese of Winnipeg

## "Office of Catechetics & Faith Development"

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### **MEMORANDUM**

To: All Parishes

From: Judith Vasquez

CC: Archbishop Richard Gagnon

Date: October 15, 2021

Re: The New Catechetical Year

Please consider the following guidelines when hosting catechism classes in your parish during this time of pandemic.

- 1) In addition to the Celebration of Mass, the following are categorized as “faith-based gatherings” in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. For reference, please see Archbishop Gagnon’s memo of October 13, 2020.
  - a. Eucharistic adoration
  - b. Recitation of the Rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet
  - c. *Lectio Divina*
  - d. Catechism
  - e. R.C.I.A
  - f. Faith Formation sessions
  - g. Retreats
  - h. Meetings or gatherings of a pastoral nature (e.g., Parish Pastoral Council, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women’s League, etc.)
- 2) There are four ways to provide catechetical programs in the parish.

- a. Remote learning: some parishes may consider using videoconferencing (such as “Zoom”) to reach out to children and their families.
  - b. Home-based catechesis: as our Archdiocesan Synod reminded us, the domestic church is where faith is lived and passed on to the next generation. Parents who wish to provide catechesis at home should make this known to their pastor and faith formation coordinators so that they can receive the necessary support and resources.
  - c. Blended learning catechesis: some parishes may opt to have blended catechesis this year. This means offering and delivering instruction through electronic and online media, along with some in-person teaching in a parish setting.
  - d. In-person catechesis: this has been the traditional way of catechizing in most of our parishes. Parishes that choose this method must follow all Archdiocesan COVID-19 protocols (accessible through [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca)).
- 3) For all faith-based gatherings including catechism classes, please consider the following as you prepare the environment.
- a. Faith-based indoor gatherings are permitted for up to 33 per cent capacity or twenty-five (25) people, whichever is greater.
  - b. Parishes that use Catholic School spaces are required to follow the health regulations of the province of Manitoba. This includes maintaining two (2) meter distancing. Masks are required for all catechists and participants. Wearing of mask is not required for:
    - i. children under 5,
    - ii. persons with a medical condition unrelated to COVID-19 (e.g., asthma, allergies),
    - iii. persons with disability and/or movement impediments preventing them from removing a mask without the help of another person.

Screening (the COVID-19 questionnaire) should take place before each class and proper cleaning and disinfecting should take place in all facilities before and after use.

Rooms such as school gyms, multipurpose rooms, and parish halls may be used by several groups if proper procedures are in place to ensure social distancing, along with cleaning and disinfecting between uses. To facilitate numbers, parishes may choose to hold catechism on more than one day during the week.

Vaccines for the purpose of mitigating COVID-19 are recommended. We follow the appropriate public safety measures as a matter of justice and charity. For more information, please view Archbishop Gagnon's *Friday Reports* where he discusses a variety of issues related to vaccinations.

If you require any clarification, please contact the Director of Catechetics and Faith Development at [jvasquez@archwinnipeg.ca](mailto:jvasquez@archwinnipeg.ca)