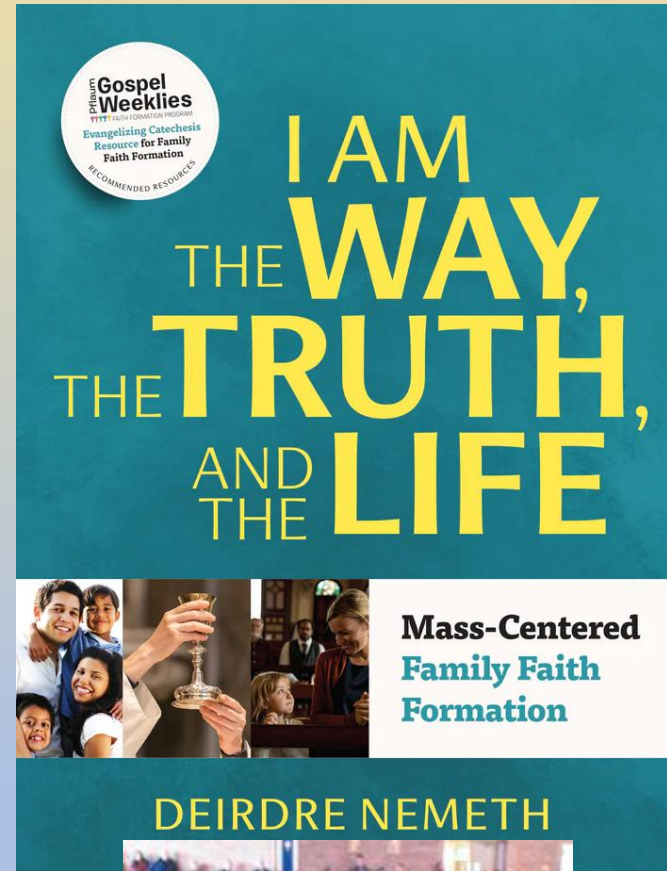




MASS-CENTERED FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



Bishop Kevin Sweeney

Diocese of Paterson

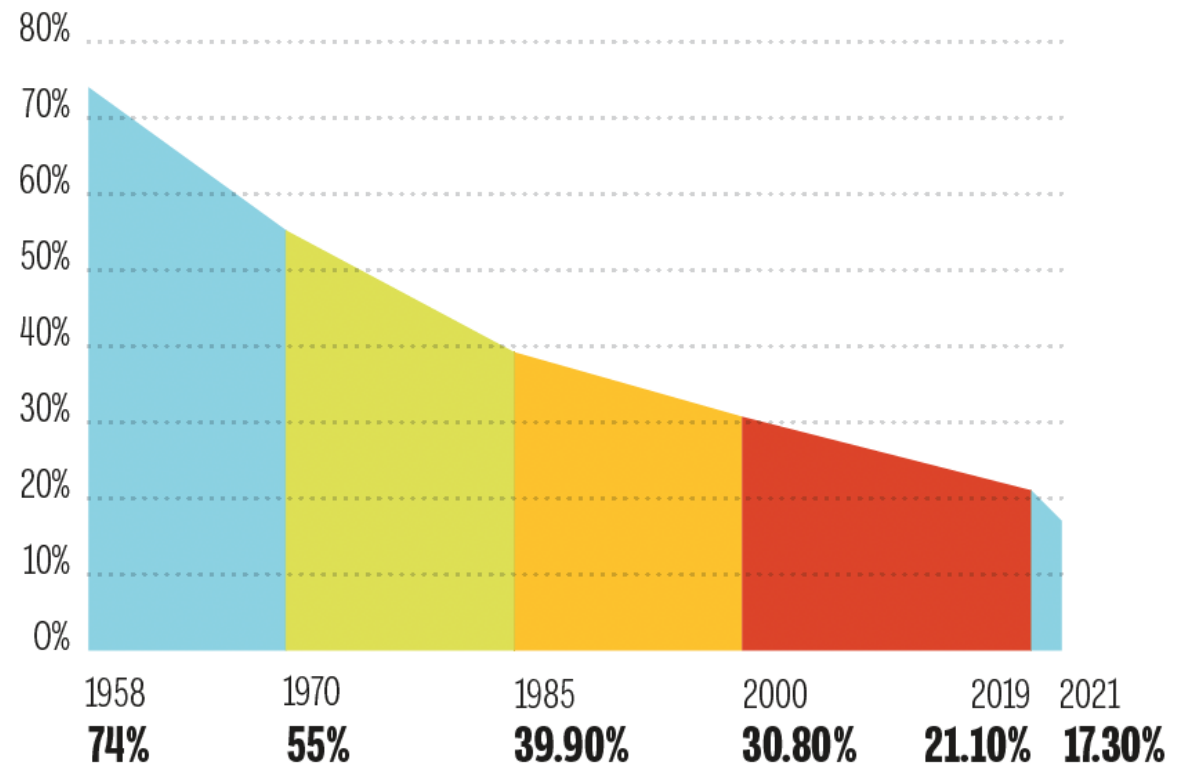
***“I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”* is a wonderful contribution to the future of catechesis and parish renewal.**

...has skillfully integrated the principles of family catechesis into a program that is profoundly centered on the Eucharist and fully aligned with the church’s call for evangelization in the 21st century.

C.A.R.A.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

U.S. WEEKLY MASS ATTENDANCE RATES³





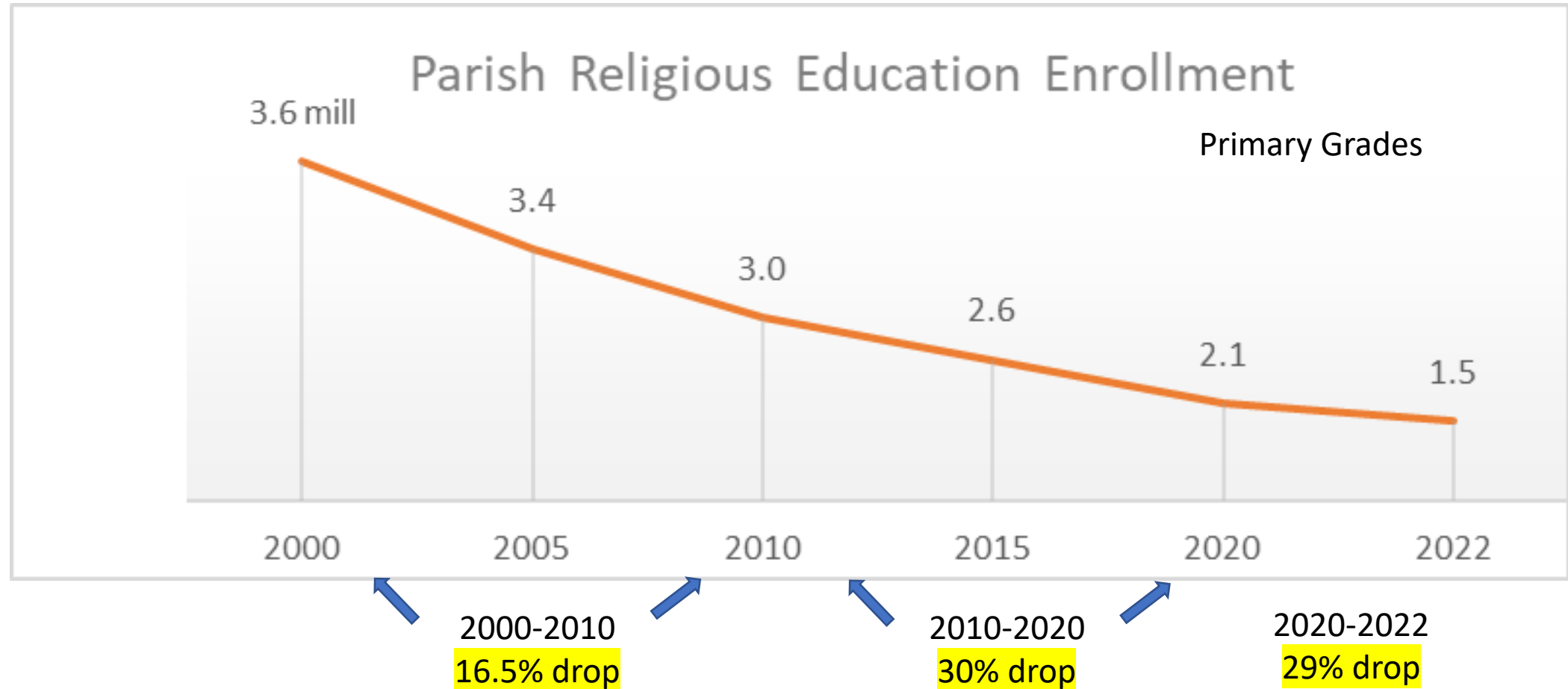
Religion for nearly all parents
was mostly about
being a good person,
NOT a personal encounter
with God or Jesus.

Handing Down the Faith

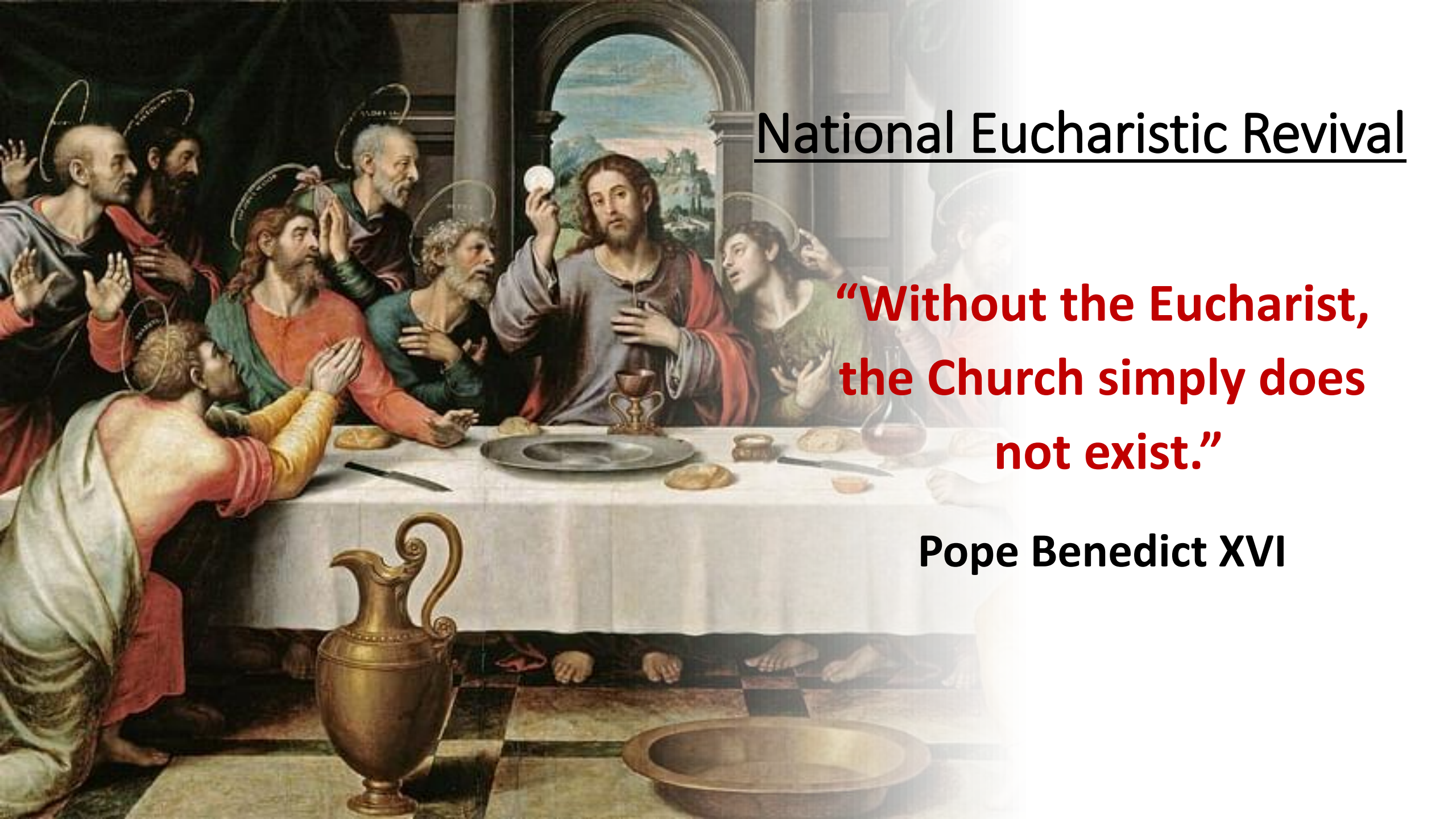
Being a Good Person

Parish Religious Education Enrollment

Primary Grades



C.A.R.A.



National Eucharistic Revival

**“Without the Eucharist,
the Church simply does
not exist.”**

Pope Benedict XVI

Priorities of the Diocese of Paterson **Office of Catechesis**

Family Catechesis **centered on the Holy Mass**

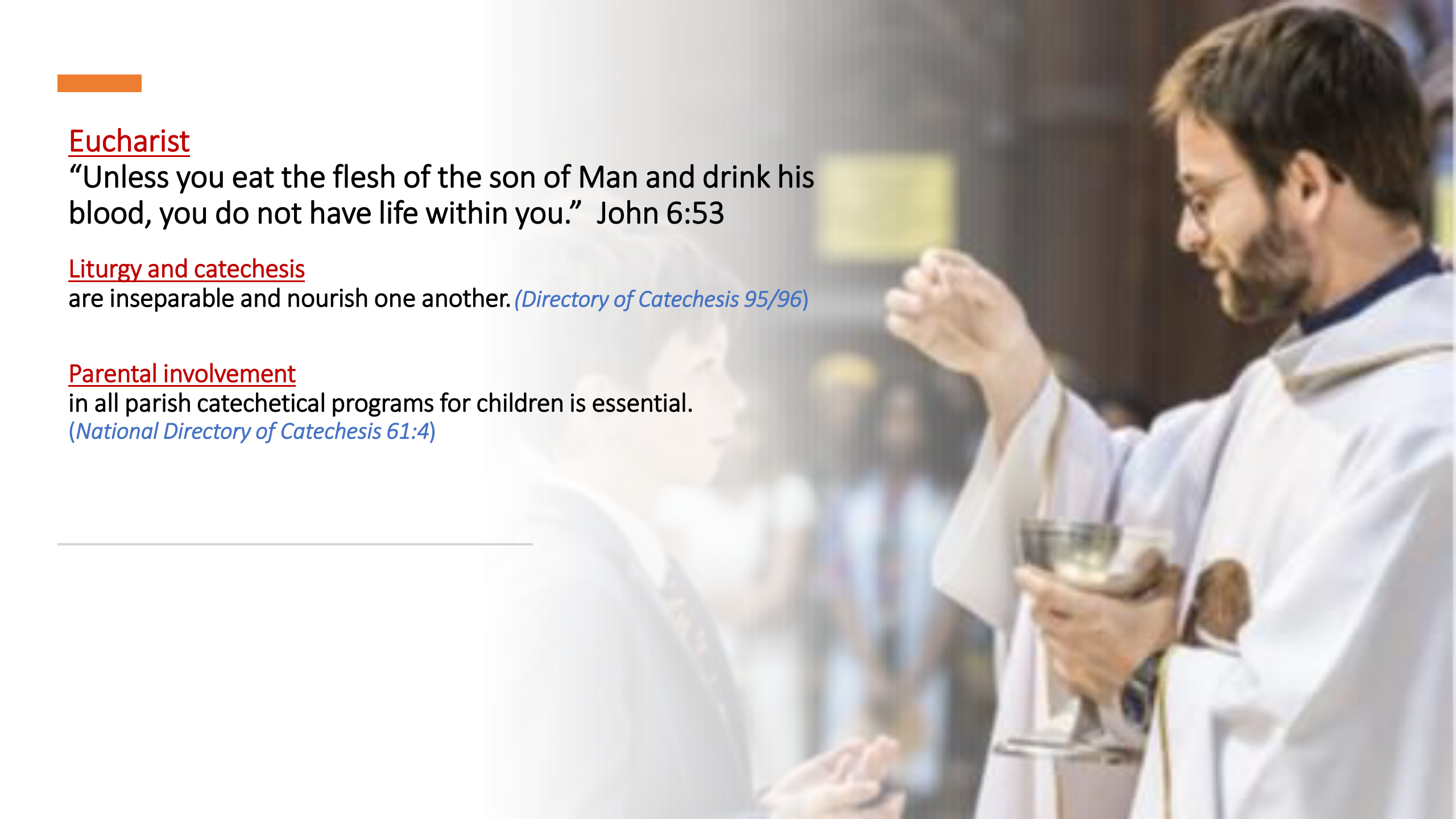
The Family catechesis model is rooted in the Church's understanding of the family as the "domestic church," a sacred space where faith is first encountered, nurtured, and lived out.

National Directory of Catechesis:

All dioceses and parishes, in the efforts and resources they focus on the new evangelization, should pursue.....

**A stronger commitment
to celebrating the
Eucharist each Sunday.**





Eucharist

“Unless you eat the flesh of the son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.” John 6:53

Liturgy and catechesis

are inseparable and nourish one another. (*Directory of Catechesis 95/96*)

Parental involvement

in all parish catechetical programs for children is essential.
(*National Directory of Catechesis 61:4*)

- + • Mass
- followed by a thirty-minute class or family faith session.

**Parishes report
75%-95%
Mass participation.
Threefold increase from
prior years!**

- ✚ Student engagement and behavior dramatically improved.
- ✚ Many parents stay after Mass to enjoy fellowship and faith learning opportunities.
- ✚ Parent volunteers skyrocketed.
- ✚ A new appreciation has developed for the Mass, priest, and parish community.

Components of Family Faith Formation

1. Catholic Spiritual Pillars

Experienced as a Family & Church Community.

Mass each Sunday

Rosary

Eucharistic Adoration

Confession

Stations of the Cross

Divine Mercy Sunday

2. Family Faith Sessions

Parents attend with children of all ages
in an interactive faith learning experience.
(Session time length varies)

3. Age Level Classes *around the Mass*

For students and learning opportunities for parents.



Parents

Enjoying church fellowship after Mass
Presents opportunities for adult faith learning

What it looks like

❖ **Arrival 10-15 minutes before Mass:** Families check off their name, students pick up a Mass lesson card and sit in pew.

➤ Mass lesson and/or Rosary decade before Mass.

❖ **Mass: 8 am, 10 am (or 12 noon)**

❖ **Grade level classes OR Family Faith after Mass:**

30-Minute Class after Mass: 9-9:30 am/11-11:30 am.

➤ Parents Stay! Coffee, fellowship & faith learning opportunities.

➤ Confirmation Classes: Parents attend class with their 8th-HS child.

Family Faith Sessions after Mass: All-ages faith learning or “spiritual pillar” session with parents/children.

1 st – 8 th Grades	1 st -8 th Grades	1 st -10 th Grades
8:15-10:00 am Session	10:15-12:00 Noon Session	5:45-7:30 pm Session
Inclusive of 8:30 am Mass	Inclusive of 10:30 am Mass	Inclusive of 6:00 pm Mass

Sunday, Oct. 1	Family Faith: MASS, WELCOME, ROSARY – All Grades & Parents	
Sunday, 10/8	Mass only (4-day weekend)	
Sunday, 10/15	Mass/Class	
Tuesday, 10/17	Family Faith (9th & 10th & Parents: Respect Life Speaker)	
Sunday, 10/22	Mass/Class	
Sunday, 10/29	Mass/Class	
Sunday, 11/5	Mass/Class	
Sunday, 11/12	Mass/Class	
Tuesday, 11/14	Family Faith – 6 th & 7 th & Parents: Theology of the Body (6:45-8:30 pm)	
Sunday, 11/19	Mass/Class	
Saturday, 12/2 OR Sunday 12/3	Family Faith – Mass & Dinner 1 st -5 th Grades & Parents: “Our Blessed Mother, Fatima and the Rosary”	
Sunday, 12/10	Christmas Pageant after Mass	
12/17 – 12/31	Mass only – Christmas break	

1 st – 8 th Grades	1 st -8 th Grades	1 st -10 th Grades
8:15-10:00 am Session	10:15-12:00 Noon Session	5:45-7:30 pm Session
Inclusive of 8:30 am Mass	Inclusive of 10:30 am Mass	Inclusive of 6:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 7	Family Faith: MASS & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION	
Sunday, 1/14	Mass/Class	
Sunday, 1/21	Mass/Class	
Sunday, 1/28	Mass/Class	
Sunday, 2/24	Mass/Class	
Sunday, 2/11	Mass/Class	
2/14	ASH WEDNESDAY Mass or Service	
Lent	Family Faith Reconciliation/CONFESSIONS – 2 nd -10 th Families Mon	
Friday in Lent	Family Faith STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Come to at least one Friday Stations	
Sunday, 2/18	Mass only: President’s weekend	
Sunday, 2/25	Mass/Class	
Sunday, 3/4	Mass/Class	
Sat, 3/10 or Sun 3/11 or 3/18	Family Faith – Mass & Dinner “The Miracle of Confession and the Effects on our Souls”	
Sunday, 4/8	Family Faith – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – Mass. Divine Mercy 3-3:30 pm in church	

Mass Lessons before Mass

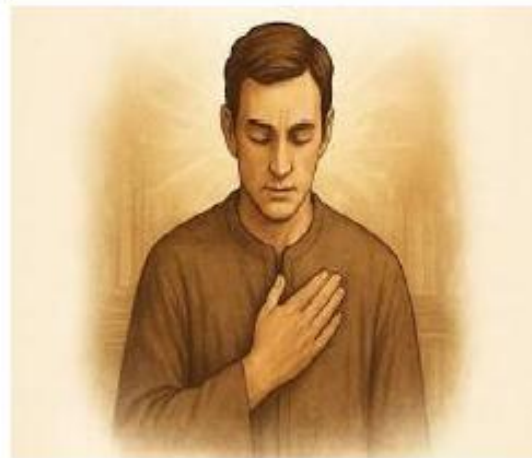
Mass Lesson Question

ACTS OF REVERENCE
AS WE ENTER THE CHURCH

- ✚ Think about the first act of reverence (act of showing deep respect) that your family does, and why, as you enter the doors to the sacred space of the church. Look to immediate left & right of the door for the clue.
- ✚ What is the second act of reverence your family does before you sit in the church pew & why?

Mass Lesson Question

PENITENTIAL ACT:
Why do we strike our breast 3 times?



Penitential Act – Confiteor:

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,
(All strike their breast as they say):
through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
Therefore, I ask blessed Mary, ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints, and you, my
brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Fr. Richard Carton

Pastor, Our Lady
of the Lake
Parish, Sparta, NJ

- https://ollsparta-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/dnemet_h_ourladyofthelake_org/IQBBdmgRc87GTJ3oanigsApaAWnse9cvkbGD7H8X4R2IRgE?e=a2Avgg



RECTOR & DRE TESTIMONIAL

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Paterson , NJ

Msgr. Geno Sylva

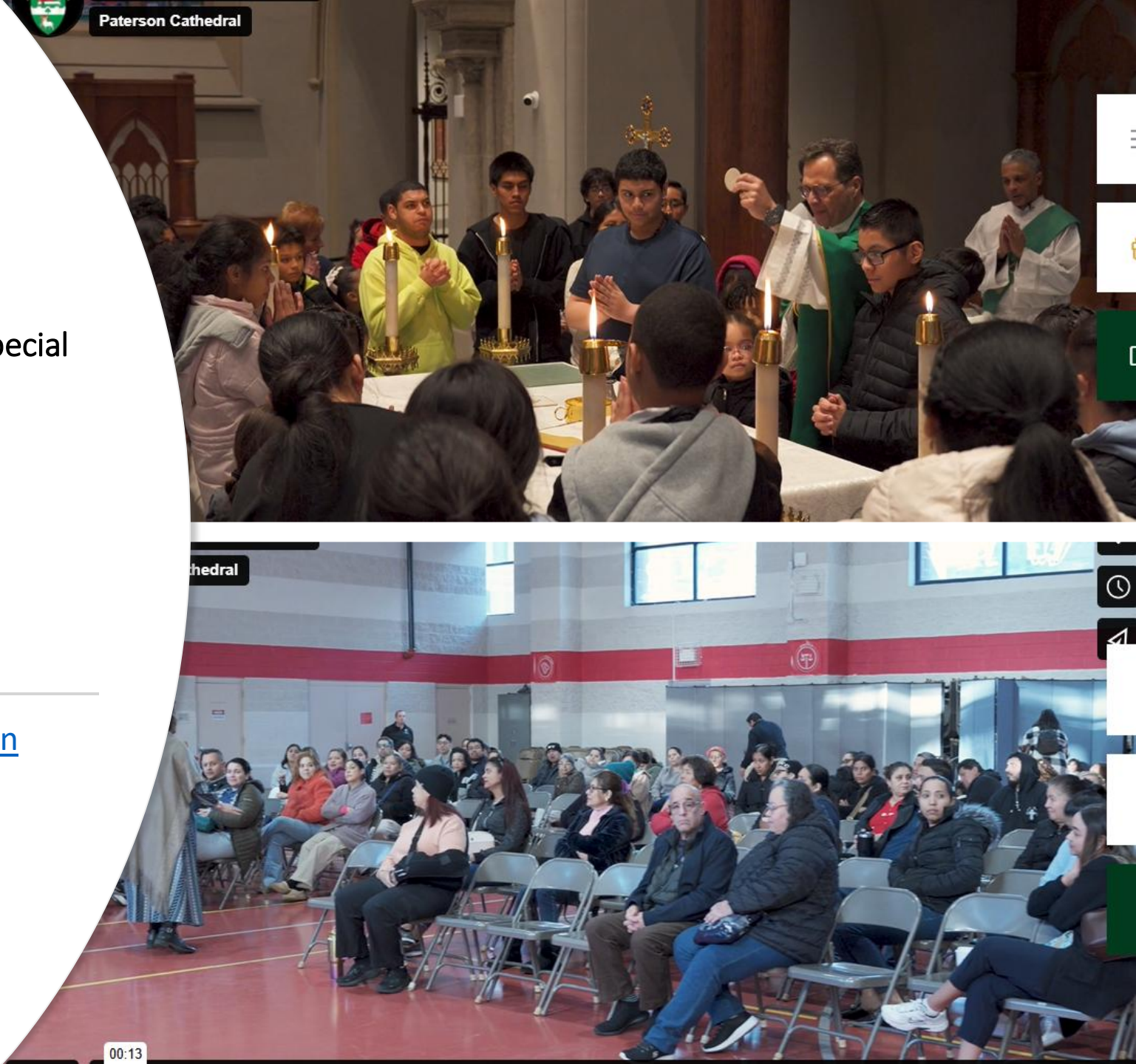
Rector of the Cathedral and Diocesan Vicar for Special Projects

Ivannia Vega-McTighe,

Director of Faith Formation

<https://www.rcdopcathedral.org/faith-formation>

<https://youtu.be/jpba1m0SJSc>



Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Paterson, NJ

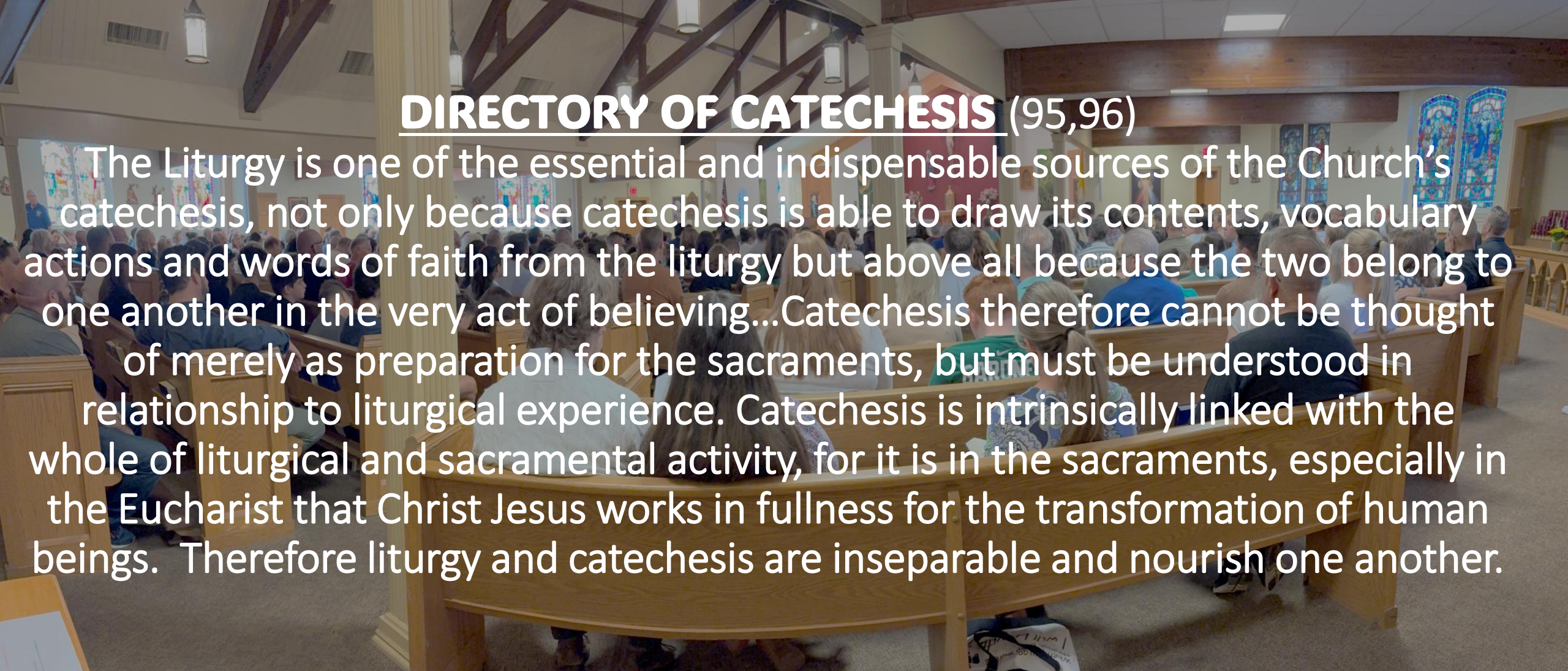
Msgr. Geno Sylva

**Rector of the Cathedral of
St. John the Baptist and
Diocesan Vicar for Special
Projects.**





The Mass as Catechesis



DIRECTORY OF CATECHESIS (95,96)

The Liturgy is one of the essential and indispensable sources of the Church's catechesis, not only because catechesis is able to draw its contents, vocabulary actions and words of faith from the liturgy but above all because the two belong to one another in the very act of believing...Catechesis therefore cannot be thought of merely as preparation for the sacraments, but must be understood in relationship to liturgical experience. Catechesis is intrinsically linked with the whole of liturgical and sacramental activity, for it is in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist that Christ Jesus works in fullness for the transformation of human beings. Therefore liturgy and catechesis are inseparable and nourish one another.

The Mass as Catechesis

Early Church Liturgy and Catechesis

“In the early catechumenate there was almost no distinction between liturgy and catechesis.” Catherine Dooley (Liturgical-catechetical scholar 1933-2015)

The “model of all catechesis” is the catechumenate. According to ancient tradition, every form of catechesis should be inspired by the catechumenate model. (International Council for Catechesis, 1990)

Catechesis for children in the early middle ages was accompanied by parents in the home and the pastor during the liturgy. (The Way of Catechesis)



**Father
Richard
speaking
to the
children
during his
homily**



Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word

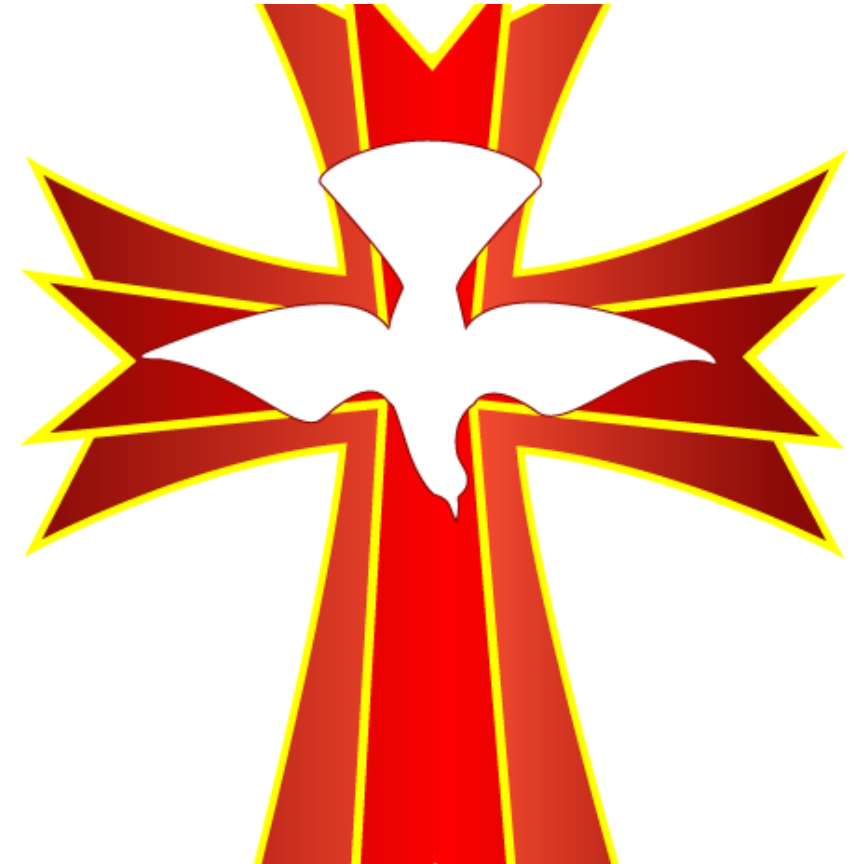


Director of
Faith
Formation
Testimonial
Mass as a
Requirement



Confirmation and Mass

- ❖ According to the **Code of Canon Law 889-2:**
*To receive Confirmation lawfully, a person who has the use of reason must be suitably instructed, **properly disposed** and able to renew the baptismal promises.*
- ❖ “**Properly Disposed**” – Inherent in this language is that students are in union with Church teaching and are keeping the Lord’s Day holy.

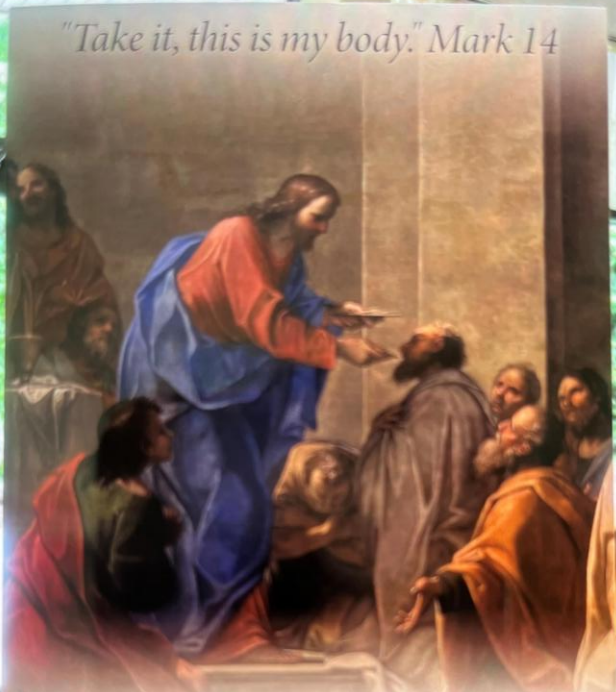


Coming to Mass at Our Lady of the Lake



Coming to
Mass

"Take it, this is my body." Mark 14



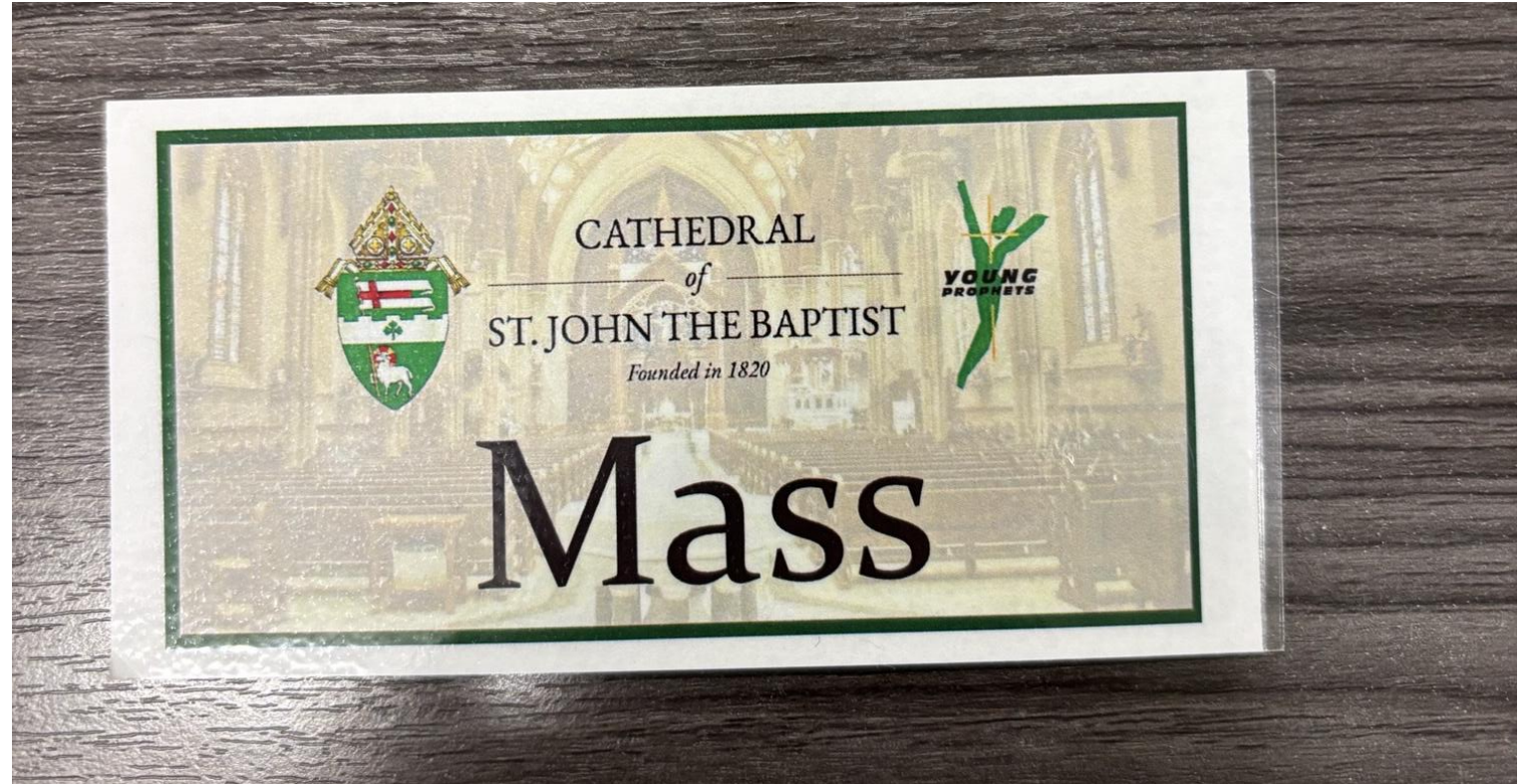
QR Code Attendance For Religious
Education and Confirmation Program

To use a QR code, you can scan it with your phone's camera:

1. Open your camera app.
2. Point your camera at the QR code so it's in full view and in focus.
3. Wait for the camera to recognize the code, which may take a moment.
4. Tap the icon or web address that appears on your screen.
5. Your phone will take you to the Google Form using its web browser.



Coming to
Mass





NAME:

JUNE

○ ○ ○

"EVERY MASS IS AN OPPORTUNITY
TO DRAW CLOSER TO GOD."

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA



COLLECT A STAMP EACH TIME YOU ATTEND
CHILDREN'S LITURGY

OCTOBER

○ ○ ○ ○

NOVEMBER

○ ○ ○ ○

DECEMBER

○ ○ ○ ○

JANUARY

○ ○ ○ ○

Coming to Mass



Coming to Mass at St. Kateri

Directory of Catechesis (2020)

FAMILY

**a renewed emphasis is placed on catechesis *in* the family,
with the family and *of* the family. (#227-321)**

Handing Down the Faith Study



Three Key Factors

- **Families talking daily about religion in the home.**
- **Parents attending religious services at least once a week.**
- **Parents reporting their religious faith is extremely important**

How Likely are Catholics to Discuss the Faith casually with friends during the week....

Catholics	Non-Religious	All Other Religions (in study)
26%	27%	54%

Family Faith Formats after Mass

- Spiritual Pillars
 - Parents invited to Children's Classes
 - Adult Faith learning while children in classes
 - Large Family Faith event (possibly a meal) for some or all grades
 - Extending learning to the Home
-



Eucharistic Adoration



Bishop Serratelli leading Rosary Family Faith Session (Beacon)



Confession





Divine Mercy Sunday

Directory of Catechesis (2020)

➤ The greatest challenge in this situation is for couples, mothers and fathers, active participants in catechesis, to

overcome the mentality of delegation

that is so common, according to which the faith is set aside for specialists in religious education. (#124)

Catechist
Testimonial
Parental
Involvement



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE PARISH'S K-8/HS GRADE FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR 2025-26 (Subject to necessary changes)

- Faith Formation Sessions (Mass/Class): Arrive 7:50 am or 9:50 am for Mass teaching in church, then 8 or 10 am Mass, followed by class.

Sunday	Faith Formation – Always arrive at 7:50 or 9:50 am	Date	Faith Formation
Sept. 14 Faith Formation	Family Faith: K-HS Families Arrive 7:50 or 9:50 am. 8 am, 10 am Mass. Family Mtg after w/Fr Richard & D.Nemeth	2/8	Family Faith: K-HS families - Remain in Church after 8 am or 10 am Mass for a family faith lesson
9/21	Mass only for K-8 families :5:30 Sat/ 8, 10 or 12 noon Sunday. Catechists & Aides ONLY: 11-12 pm Meeting Cassidy Hall	2/15	Mass only (President's weekend)
9/28	Family Faith (In Church) Arrive 7:50 or 9:50 am for Mass lesson/8 or 10 am Mass/then 30 min Rosary session	2/18 (Wed)	Ash Wednesday 8:30 am & 7 pm Mass with Stations of the Cross
Oct. 4 (Sat) CONFIRM.	CONFIRMATION PARENT/STUDENTS (8th-HS): After 5:30 pm Mass, 30-minute Confirmation Mtg. in church	Fridays Lent Attend one	Family Stations of the Cross 7:30-8:30 pm Family Children's Stations: 4:30-5 pm
10/5	Mass & class. (Each week arrive 10 minutes before Mass for Mass lesson or Rosary decade). After Mass, Go to McKenna Hl (8-HS Gr. Parents accompany their children in class all year)	Confession Lent	Mondays 7:30-8:30 pm or Saturday 9:30-10:30 am
10/12	Mass only (Columbus Day)	2/22 1 st Sun Lent	Mass & class (First Eucharist Parents' class)
10/19	Mass & class	Mar. 1 2 nd Sun Lent	Mass & class (2 nd Grade parent class)
10/26	Mass & class (K parent class visit)	3/7 (Sat) CONF RETREAT	CONFIRMATION RETREAT 12 NOON TO 1:30 PM McKenna Hall. Parent/s should join students
Nov. 2	Mass & class (1 st grade parent class visit) Parent guest speaker in McKenna: "Gratitude & Inner Peace"	3/8 3 rd Sun Lent	Family Faith: K-HS families -Remain in Church after 10 am Mass for Eucharistic Adoration
11/9	Mass only (Teacher's convention)	3/15 4 th Sun Lent	Mass & class (Reconciliation Review with Fr Richard) Parent Guest speaker in McKenna Hall
11/16	Family Faith: Mass then to McKenna Hall "Eucharist Miracles"	3/21 (Sat) RECON.	FIRST RECONCILIATION 9:30 am
11/23	Family Faith: Mass & Breakfast with Fr Richard (McKenna Hall)	3/22 5 th Sun Lent	Family Faith: The Brown Scapular & Stations of the Cross Remain in Church after 8 am or 10 am Mass
Nov. 30	Mass only – 1 st Sunday Advent (Thanksgiving weekend)	3/29	Mass only (Palm Sunday)
12/7 2 nd S Adv	Mass & class (7 th Grade parent visit & 2 nd Gr Parent Mtg)	4/5	Easter Sunday
12/14 3 rd S Adv	Family Faith: Mass & Christmas Pageant in Church (1:00 pm)	4/12	Family Faith: Mass. Divine Mercy Fasting
12/21 4 th S Adv	Mass	4/19	Mass & Class
12/25	Merry Christmas	4/25 (Saturday)	*CONFIRMATION w/BISHOP - MASS



Parents joining
their children in
class.

Family Faith Session



er let it rest.
ur good is better
ur better is best."
~ St. Jerome



Father Richard at Family Faith



**Parents and Children
Together at Family Faith Sessions**

Family Faith

Mass Part Game

Men/Boys Vs. Women/Girls



Mass Part Activity at Family Faith



Mass Part Challenge

Match number with the correct Part of Mass. (Hint: Words in Bold lettering are clues to answer)

INTRODUCTORY RITES



All Mass Parts in Introductory Rites section

↓ will match with numbers 1-3.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ___ Greeting | 1. We ask God's forgiveness to prepare for Mass: "I Confess to almighty God..." |
| ___ Penitential Rite | 2. The priest begins the Mass with the Sign of the Cross and "The Lord be with you." |
| ___ Gloria | 3. " Gloria to God in the highest"... this is the song the angels sang at Jesus' birth. |

LITURGY OF THE WORD



All Mass Parts in Liturgy of the Word section

↓ will match with numbers 4-10

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ___ First Reading | 4. We respond with one of 150 poems and prayers that are in the Old Testament. |
| ___ Responsorial Psalm | 5. This Bible reading is taken from New Testament (but NOT the Gospels). |
| ___ Second Reading | 6. We stand for this Bible reading because we hear the words and deeds of Jesus Christ. Read from one of four books of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. |
| ___ Gospel | 7. This Bible reading is usually taken from the Old Testament (the time before Jesus) |
| ___ Homily | 8. The Priest explains the meaning of the Bible Readings and how to live a moral life. |
| ___ Profession of Faith | 9. After the Bible readings, the faithful pray for the needs of the Church and the world..."Lord, hear our prayer..." |
| ___ Prayers of the Faithful | 10. "I believe..." This prayer is a summary of our faith that we profess out loud. |

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



All Mass Parts in Liturgy of the Eucharist

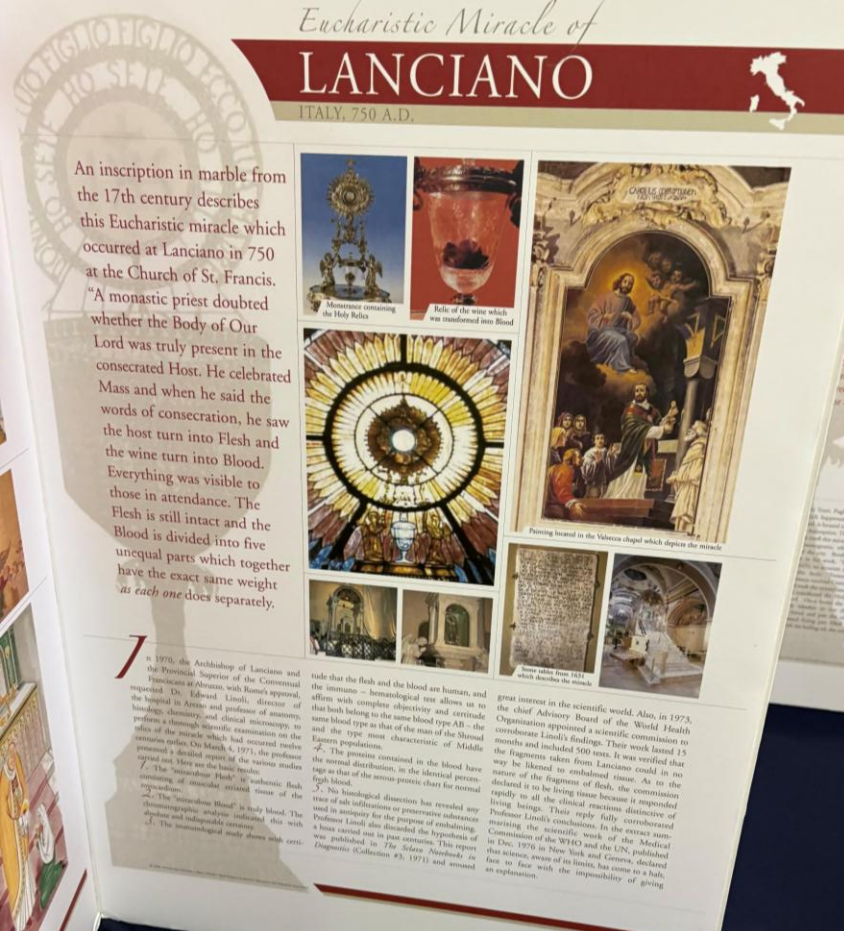
↓ will match with numbers 11-17.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ___ Preparation of the Gifts | 11. Money is collected and for the poor and for the Church. Gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar table. |
| ___ Holy Holy Holy | 12. This prayer was taught by our Lord , Jesus, in the Gospels. "Our Father..." |
| ___ Consecration | 13. With all the angels in heaven, we sing these words of praise to the Lord because |

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| ___ Sign of Peace | 15. At the words of the Priest, the bread and wine now become the Body and Blood of Christ. "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is My Body...." |
| ___ Lamb of God | 16. We say or sing these words because Jesus is our sacrifice. He is our Passover Lamb |

- First Reading
- Sign of Peace
- Penitential Rite
- Gospel
- The Lord's Prayer
"Our Father"





Miracles of the Eucharist – St. Carlo Acutis Family Faith

Parent Feedback

"I love this program!
You are getting all of us to come to Mass!"

Mom of 6th & 8th Graders

"We have enjoyed the family faith sessions!!! We are all running in so many different directions and it is nice to sit and enjoy time with our friends

Mom of 1 st, 3rd & 5th Graders

Curriculum...What Books to Use...



All approved Catholic Religious Education publishers' text can be used in this program.



<https://www.usccb.org/resources/CRL>

Our Lady of Lake Eucharistic Adoration Chapel



