

policy on homeschoolers for catechesis and sacramental preparation

14 February 2013

Dear Homeschooling Families,

Prince of Peace is home to many homeschooling families and is supportive of parents' primary role in the spiritual development of their children. Catechesis is primarily the responsibility of the parents, but also takes place in communion with the local church. The parish clergy have a vested interest in making sure that all under their care receive all that they need for their Christian formation.

Catechesis Every Year

If you are a homeschooling family, you should register every child in grades 1-8 at the beginning of each academic year with the Director of Christian Formation of the parish. There is a special registration form you can fill out here.

http://www.princeofpeacetaylors.net/?page_id=676

You must be enrolled as Homeschoolers in our Religious Education Program, and the program you use must be approved by the Pastor to ensure its conformity with the teaching of the Church.

You also must sign a Covenant of Understanding and submit it with your Registration Form at the beginning of each academic year.

First Confession and Holy Communion

Preparation for First Confession and Holy Communion ordinarily takes place over a two year period culminating in 2nd grade around the age of 7. For a child to receive First Confession and Holy Communion, the following requirements must be met:

1. the family must be registered, active and contributing members of the parish for at least 6 months.
2. the child must receive at least 2 years of formal religious instruction using an approved program.
3. in the second year of that program, the child must have finished the 1st grade and be registered in the First Confession and Holy Communion program of the parish as a homeschooler.
4. the parents must attend all mandatory meetings which are required of all involved in the First Confession and Holy Communion program, be they homeschoolers, students at parochial schools or in the RE program.

5. the parents and the child must fulfill all of the requirements for the First Confession and Holy Communion program, which are provided by the Director of Christian Formation at the beginning of the year.
6. the child must attend the First Communion Retreat.
7. the child must pass a Test administered by the Director of Christian Formation.

All children receiving First Communion must attend their First Confession with the RE classes on the appointed day. The only exception is if the child is sick, in which case the family will arrange with the Director of Christian Formation confession with one of the parish clergy.

All children receiving First Communion will receive First Communion during the parish celebration of the event each year in the Ordinary Form in English or the parish celebration of the event each year in the Extraordinary Form in Latin. There are two exceptions:

1. if the child is sick on the day of First Communion, or for some other grave reason is unable to make his First Communion on that day, the parents can petition the Director of Christian Formation and the Pastor in writing for the First Communion on another suitable day.
2. if a family member or close friend of the family is a priest in good standing with the Catholic Church, and the child wishes to receive Holy Communion at a Mass celebrated by that priest, the parents can petition the Director of Christian Formation and the Pastor.

It is expected that the family continue the catechetical and spiritual formation of their children during every year of formal schooling even after First Confession and Holy Communion, and be registered as homeschoolers at the beginning of each academic year with the Religious Education Program of the Parish

Children older than 7 and 2nd grade

From time to time children who are older than 7 and who have completed 2nd grade need to receive Confession and Holy Communion. They must still have at least 2 years of formal religious education before being admitted to the sacraments and must fulfill all of the requirements made above.

In the case of a child who is significantly older than 7, the Director of Christian Formation and the Pastor may suggest that the child receive Confession and First Holy Communion outside of the normal times the others receive those Sacraments. The date and time will be determined within the context of a meeting between the family and the Director of Christian Formation, as well as the Pastor or his delegate.

Children younger than 7 and 2nd grade

From time to time children who are younger than 7 and who have not yet entered 2nd grade show intellectual and spiritual capabilities far beyond their age. We highly discourage children receiving the Sacraments earlier than the norm, because of the benefit of going through the age-appropriate processes. In exceptional cases, the Pastor may grant an exception to the lower age limit for the Reception of the Sacraments.

For this exception to be granted, the following must occur:

1. the family must be registered, active and contributing members of the parish for at least 6 months.
2. the child must receive at least 2 years of formal religious instruction using an approved program.
3. the child must have finished the 2nd grade academic or at least Religious Education program that they follow as part of their approved homeschool curriculum with above average grades and be registered in the First Confession and Holy Communion program of the parish as a homeschooler.
4. the parents must attend all mandatory meetings which are required of all involved in the First Confession and Holy Communion program, be they homeschoolers, students at parochial schools or in the RE program.
5. the parents and the child must fulfill all of the requirements for the First Confession and Holy Communion program, which are provided by the Director of Christian Formation at the beginning of the year.
6. the child must attend the First Communion Retreat.
7. the child must pass a Test administered by the Director of Christian Formation.
8. the child must show exceptional intellectual and spiritual maturity, which can be seen.
9. it must be clear that the parents are not in any way pushing or suggesting early reception to the child.
10. the child must spontaneously request to receive Holy Communion to his parents as well as express to one of the parish priests, in his own words and in his own time, why he wants to receive Holy Communion early and what it means to them.
11. the parents must make the request in writing to the Pastor and the Director of Christian Formation at least 6 months in advance of the date of First Communion.

If it is clear that a child is ready to receive Confession and Holy Communion earlier than the norm, once all of the above requirements are fulfilled, then, after an appointment with the Pastor or his delegate, the Director of Christian Formation, the parents and the child, the Pastor may give his approval.

All children receiving First Communion will receive First Communion during the parish celebration of the event each year in the Ordinary Form in English or the parish celebration of the event each year in the Extraordinary Form in Latin. There are two exceptions:

1. if the child is sick on the day of First Communion, or for some other grave reason is unable to make his First Communion on that day, the parents can petition the Director of Christian Formation and the Pastor in writing for the First Communion on another suitable day.
2. if a family member or close friend of the family is a priest in good standing with the Catholic Church, and the child wishes to receive Holy Communion at a Mass celebrated by that priest, the parents can petition the Director of Christian Formation and the Pastor.

Confirmation

Preparation for Confirmation ordinarily takes place over a two year period culminating in 8th grade around the age of 13. For a child to receive Confirmation, the following requirements must be met:

1. the family must be registered, active and contributing members of the parish for at least 6 months.
2. the child must have received continuous religious instruction using an approved program since his First Communion
3. in the second year of preparation for Confirmation, the child must be registered in the First Confession and Holy Communion program of the parish as a homeschooler.
4. the parents and the Confirmand must attend all mandatory meetings which are required of all involved in the Confirmation program, be they homeschoolers, students at parochial schools or in the RE program.
5. the parents and the child must fulfill all of the requirements for the Confirmation program, which are provided by the Director of Confirmation Preparation at the beginning of the year.
6. the child must attend the Confirmation Retreat.
7. the child must pass a Test administered by the Director of Confirmation Preparation.

All children receiving Confirmation must go to Confession in preparation for the Sacrament with the RE classes on the appointed day. The only exception is if the child is sick, in which case the family will arrange with the Director of Christian Formation confession with one of the parish clergy.

All children receiving Confirmation will receive Confirmation during the parish celebration of the event each year.

If the child is sick on the day of Confirmation, or for some other grave reason is unable to make his Confirmation on that day, the parents can petition the Director of Christian Formation and the Pastor in writing to ascertain if the Confirmand may receive the Sacrament at the parish celebration the next year or at another parish.

If a family member or close friend of the family is a Bishop in good standing with the Catholic Church, and the child wishes to receive Confirmation at a Mass celebrated by that Bishop, the parents can petition the Director of Christian Formation and the Pastor.

It is expected that the family continue the catechetical and spiritual formation of their children during every year of formal schooling even after Confirmation.

Children older than 13 and 8th grade

From time to time children who are older than 13 and who have completed 8th grade need to receive Confirmation. They should be enrolled in the parish's RCIA Program at the beginning of the academic year. The Director of RCIA and the Confirmand together will determine whether the child can be confirmed during the annual parish celebration of Confirmation with the Bishop or his delegate.

Children younger than 13 and 8th grade

From time to time children who are younger than 13 and who have not yet entered 8th grade show intellectual and spiritual capabilities far beyond their age. We highly discourage children receiving the Sacraments earlier than the norm, because of the benefit of going through the age-appropriate processes. In exceptional cases, the Pastor may grant an exception to the lower age limit for the Reception of the Sacraments.

For this exception to be granted, the following must occur:

1. the family must be registered, active and contributing members of the parish for at least 6 months.
2. the child must receive at least 2 years of formal religious instruction using an approved program.
3. the child must have finished the 2nd grade academic or at least Religious Education program that they follow as part of their approved homeschool curriculum with above average grades and be registered in the Confirmation program of the parish as a homeschooler for at least 2 years.

4. the parents and Confirmands must attend all mandatory meetings which are required of all involved in the Confirmation program, be they homeschoolers, students at parochial schools or in the RE program.
5. the parents and the child must fulfill all of the requirements for the Confirmation program, which are provided by the Director of Confirmation Preparation at the beginning of the year.
6. the child must attend the Confirmation Retreat.
7. the child must pass a Test administered by the Director of Confirmation Preparation.
8. the child must show exceptional intellectual and spiritual maturity, which can be seen.
9. it must be clear that the parents are not in any way pushing or suggesting early reception to the child.
10. the child must spontaneously request to receive Confirmation to his parents as well as express to one of the parish priests, in his own words and in his own time, why he wants to receive Confirmation early and what it means to them.
11. the parents must make the request in writing to the Pastor and the Director of Confirmation Preparation at least 6 months in advance of the date of Confirmation.

If it is clear that a child is ready to receive Confirmation earlier than the norm, once all of the above requirements are fulfilled, then, after an appointment with the Pastor or his delegate, the Director of Confirmation Preparation, the parents and the child, the Pastor may give his approval.

All children receiving Confirmation will receive Confirmation during the parish celebration of the event each year.

If the child is sick on the day of Confirmation, or for some other grave reason is unable to make his Confirmation on that day, the parents can petition the Director of Christian Formation and the Pastor in writing to ascertain if the confirmand may receive the Sacrament at the parish celebration the next year or at another parish.

If a family member or close friend of the family is a Bishop in good standing with the Catholic Church, and the child wishes to receive Confirmation at a Mass celebrated by that Bishop, the parents can petition the Director of Christian Formation and the Pastor.

It is expected that the family continue the catechetical and spiritual formation of their children during every year of formal schooling even after Confirmation.

Contacts

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