**Family Confirmation and First Eucharist Preparation Journey and RCIA for Children and Teens**

As is the diocesan policy, we are encouraging parishes to continue to offer the two-year Family Confirmation and First Eucharist Preparation Journey, which includes First Reconciliation. To view the resources recommended by the Diocese, click on the following [link](https://20d5e337-56d3-432c-a7e2-20c02adb4c45.filesusr.com/ugd/e697ad_6c5cadb914774dc8834aee86110c259e.pdf).

For children and youth who are ten years and older, parishes will offer RCIA for children and teens. To order *Journey of Faith* RCIA resources for children or teens, click on the following [link](https://20d5e337-56d3-432c-a7e2-20c02adb4c45.filesusr.com/ugd/e697ad_b9755f007e664b6b96a093f17f3fb33b.pdf).

Adjustments will need to be made to provide a secure and safe environment, given the COVID-19 situation. The guidelines set out by SHA must always be followed. Other guidelines for offering onsite the Family Confirmation and First Eucharist Preparation Journey or RCIA for children or teens during this time of COVID-19 are as follows and should be placed in the parish bulletin and sent home in a letter to families who register their children or teens. Options for offering distance opportunities for the Family Confirmation and First Eucharist Preparation Journey or RCIA for children and teens are also outlined below.

Family Confirmation and First Eucharist Preparation Journey

* The catechist and other supervising adults will wear masks if closer than two meters to the parents and children.
* Social distancing guidelines (two meters) will be followed with parents and children from the same family sitting together.
* Please have hand sanitizer available for parents and children to use upon entering and existing the catechetical space.
* At this time, because there is no singing in the parish unless people are wearing masks, we will not be singing during the Family Confirmation and First Eucharist Preparation Journey.
* Each family is asked to bring with them pens, pencils, crayons or markers, scissors and glue.
* No drinks or food will be served.

For the parents:

* Masks are not mandatory for parents or children who should be sitting two-meters apart, if you wish to have members of your family wear masks please bring your own.

RCIA for children and teens

* The catechist and other supervising adults will wear masks if closer than two meters from the children and teens.
* Social distancing guidelines (two meters) will be followed with children and teens from the same family sitting together.
* Please have hand sanitizer available for children and teens to use upon entering and existing the catechetical space.
* At this time, because there is no singing in the parish unless people are wearing masks, we will not be singing during the RCIA Journey
* Each child or teen-ager is asked to bring with them pens, pencils, crayons or markers, scissors and glue as the leaders of the journey require. There will be no sharing of resources between children or teens.
* No drinks or food will be served.

For the parents:

* Masks are not mandatory for children or teens who should be sitting two meters apart, if you wish to have members of your family wear masks please supply them for your children or teens.
* Please, continue to follow parish guidelines regarding the serving of food/beverages and cleaning.

**Suggests for Distance Family Sacramental Preparation Journeys for Children or Teens**

Some parishes may not be able to offer onsite Family Confirmation and First Eucharist Preparation Journey or Children or Teen RCIA due to space or lack of volunteers due to COVID-19. There may be some families who would prefer to carry on providing the preparation for their children in their homes rather than attending onsite.

The first option, taken by some parishes last spring, is to offer the Family Confirmation and First Eucharist Preparation Journey or RCIA via Zoom. By using this or similar online platforms, catechists can gather weekly or bi-weekly to continue the children’s or teen’s formation in the faith.

The second option is to support the preparation journey in the home. Suggested steps to offer the journey this way:

* Parents register their children or teen for the journey with the parish.
* A session is offered for parents (onsite or via Zoom) to help them understand the preparation journey and the resource(s) that will be used.
* Every four to six weeks, either onsite or via Zoom, parents with their children would gather for a review of what has been covered and a presentation on the next stage of the journey. Or those in the RCIA Journey for children or teens would gather for the review and presentation.
* Parents and those in RCIA would have the contact information of the parish priest or catechist to help with any difficulty they may have, understanding the material or answering questions their child may have.
* Parents with their children and those in RCIA would be encouraged to attend parish Sunday Eucharistic celebrations.
	+ At the beginning of the journey, families would be invited to come forward and be introduced as they begin the sacramental journey for their child. At this time, a blessing of the family would be appropriate.
	+ Those in RCIA the welcoming Rite would be celebrated at the beginning of their journey one Sunday.
	+ If the reason for the preparation at home is health and concern over contacting COVID-19, the preparation can continue, and parents would be encouraged to have the family watch Mass each Sunday online. These families could be acknowledged at the parish celebration when the other families come forward to be introduced and be included in the blessings.

Please contact Christine Taylor with any questions at 306-922-4747 extension 227 or via email at mailto:catechetics@padiocese.ca.

* Please, continue to follow parish guidelines regarding the serving of food/beverages and cleaning.

**Saskatchewan Health Authority Guidelines**

**General**

The primary reference regarding COVID-19 guidelines for a gathering of children, youth or adults is set forth by the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Please read and follow all COVID-19 guidelines by the SHA when offering your catechetical opportunities. <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/mass-gatherings#public-and-private-gatherings>

**Of primary note:**

**Public and Private Gatherings**

Restrictions limiting the size of indoor and outdoor public and private gatherings remain in place. Effective July 28, 2020, indoor and outdoor gatherings may have a maximum of 30 people provided a two-metre separation can be maintained at times between individuals who are not in the same household.

The gathering size restriction does not apply to:

* Settings where people are distributed into multiple rooms or buildings, and workplaces.
* Please follow parish COVID-19 guidelines regarding the serving of beverages or food.
* Please follow parish cleaning guidelines to clean the space after each catechetical event.

**Saskatchewan Health Authority Guidelines**

**Schools**

The primary reference regarding COVID-19 guidelines for a gathering of children and youth will be the same as provided for schools. Please read and follow all COVID-19 guidelines by the SHA when offering your catechetical opportunities.

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/safe-schools-plan#other-resources-of-parents-and-teachers>

 Of primary note: Minimize physical contact, encourage proper physical distancing, and increase the cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces.

