**Catechesis for children and youth**

We are encouraging parishes to offer Catechesis as usual this fall, making some adjustments as necessary, given the COVID-19 situation.

* To order *Finding God* resources for Children’s Catechesis, click on the following [link](https://20d5e337-56d3-432c-a7e2-20c02adb4c45.filesusr.com/ugd/e697ad_10ba05a5ce324bbda5f5bdc8fd9f03f6.pdf).
* Christian Ethics 10, 20, and 30 are offered online for credit by Saskatoon Catholic Cyber School. To learn more, click on the following [link](https://www.gscs.ca/studentsandfamilies/schools/CYB).

The guidelines set out by SHA must always be followed. Other guidelines for offering onsite Children’s Catechesis should be placed in the parish bulletin and sent home in a letter to families who register their children.

The announcement and letter for onsite Catechesis will include these points:

Children’s Catechesis

* The catechist and other supervising adults and/or youth helpers will wear masks.
* Social distancing guidelines (two meters) will be followed.
	+ Children from the same family may sit together.
* Please have each child/youth use hand sanitizer as they enter and exist the catechetical space.
* Upon entering the room, children/youth will be directed to their seat. They will remain in their spot for the entire session.
	+ There will be no moving about by the children or youth.
* At this time, because there is no singing in the parish unless people are wearing masks, we will not be singing during the catechetical sessions.
* Each child/youth is asked to bring with them pencils, crayons or markers, scissors and glue.
	+ There will be no sharing of resources between children or youth
* No drinks or food will be served.

For the parents:

* Please talk with your children or youth about the guidelines before they attend the Children’s Catechesis sessions.
* Mask wearing is mandatory for children Grade 4 and up. Please provide your child or youth with a mask to wear during the sessions.

Opening your parish’s catechesis will depend on the size of the room and the ability to maintain appropriate social distancing in the space. 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.

**Distance Opportunities for Formation in the Faith for Children and Teens**

Some parishes may not be able to offer onsite catechetical opportunities due to space or lack of volunteers due to COVID-19. There may be some families who would prefer to carry on providing catechesis for children in their homes rather than attend onsite catechesis.

The first option, taken by some parishes last spring, is to offer the catechetical sessions via Zoom. By using this or similar online platforms, catechists can gather weekly or bi-weekly to continue the children’s formation in the faith.

The second option is to support the formation journey in the home. The *Finding God* resource has excellent support for parents who wish to provide formation in the faith for their children at home <https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/finding-god/finding-god-2013/parents-and-students/>.

If a parish chooses the distance opportunity, or parents wish to use the resource themselves with their children, parishes are encouraged to order the books and offer gatherings (either at the parish or via Zoom) or call families occasionally to see how they are doing. The goal is always to keep connecting with families so that on the other side of this health crisis, they will still feel connected and welcomed at the parish.

* To order *Finding God* resources for Children’s Catechesis, click on the following [link](https://20d5e337-56d3-432c-a7e2-20c02adb4c45.filesusr.com/ugd/e697ad_10ba05a5ce324bbda5f5bdc8fd9f03f6.pdf).

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

**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.

