



DEPARTMENT of CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Office of Catechesis for Children

2170 E. Victory Drive

Savannah, GA 31404

912-201-4044

CatholicEducationGA.org

Updated 4.7.20

PREP Classes:

At this time, the White House has asked that all learning be remote and to limit gatherings to no more than ten people until April 30th. Governor Kemp has suspended all public schools. In light of this, all PREP should either postpone classes and retreats or offer remote learning for students.

Sacramental Celebrations:

Currently, all public Masses are cancelled, which includes celebrations of First Communion and Confirmation through April 13th. It may be wise at this time, to consider alternate plans for the rescheduling of First Communion and Confirmation, should cancellations need to occur. We recommend continuing to monitor the CDC, and other diocesan guidelines in rescheduling events.

Remote Learning:

In the meantime, formation should continue remotely. The blessing is that this an excellent opportunity to build up the domestic Church and coach parents to be the primary catechists of their children. Some suggestions for how to go about this:

- **Stay connected:** Utilize our Facebook group or other forms of communication to check in with ideas from other leaders. As we enter this uncharted territory, supporting and bringing ideas together is crucial to coming through this time.
- **Communicate with your text publisher:** Look into the parent & at-home resources (digital or paper) your curriculum offers. Chat with your publisher's representative for help and ideas.
- **Seek help:** Ask catechists to help with communicating to parents the lessons, or to teach classes remotely. Consider the skills and technology available to your volunteer team and families when making this decision.
- **If you can, give options:** Giving parents a choice between online classes or at-home catechesis can be helpful to working with different family needs. Know the needs of your families, does everyone have reliable internet access at home? Do resources need to be in both Spanish and in English?
- **Digital options:** Many catechetical curricula have an abundant amount of resources online and family components designed for at-home use.
 - Consider hosting live classes using Google Classroom or Zoom
 - [See this instructional video for how to use Google Classroom here.](#)
 - Utilize any online lessons, videos, quizzes from your publisher.
- **Non-digital options:** Some parishes may be unable to use digital means to continue learning. Formation could continue by mailing lessons and instructions home to parents or setting up a pickup box at the parish office.

- **Address the pandemic:** While there are still learning goals, many children have anxiety about this virus. Share and communicate [resources to help them see this through the eyes of faith](#).
- **Encourage families to pray:** Prayer or how to communicate with God is the most important thing we teach children. Be sure to give families materials they can use to pray together. Encourage families to make home altars or prayer tables, provide them with information on how to make a [spiritual communion](#). Share ideas on how they can keep the Sunday holy even if they cannot attend Mass.
- **Support parents:** For some parents, this could be the first time they try to teach the faith to their children. Approaching this as a supportive mentor is crucial. Designate catechists to check in with parents to see how things are going. Make sure they are able to understand the material in the lessons and can ask questions about what they are teaching to the children. Consider any language barriers; be sure to have a parent connected with someone who speaks their language. Having parents or students submit worksheets or reflections on the lessons is a way to create accountability.
- **Choose activities that engage students and don't overwhelm parents:** Families still have school lessons to accomplish each day, make sure what you give them is not overly complicated and is engaging for their children.
- **Encourage families to serve those in need:** Be that dropping off a meal or running errands for elderly neighbors, donating to a charitable organization, or something as simple as ordering take out and giving a generous tip- there are many ways to help those in need during this time.
- **If remote learning isn't possible:** Consider offering summer sessions when students are out of school. These sessions could happen in an intensive format like a summer camp or multiple sessions. This would be ideal if parishes will need to push Confirmation and First Communion into the summer.
- **Spanish Resources are noted in red.**

General Resources:

- [USCCB's Guide during the Pandemic](#)
- [Our Diocesan Covid-19 Resource Page](#)
 - Office of Catechesis for Children
 - DRE Facebook group
 - Weekly Catechetical Certification Workshops
 - [Office of Hispanic Ministry](#)
 - Facebook Page: Weekly webinars and Livestreamed Masses *in Spanish*
 - Radio Mission Catholica: online diocesan radio in Spanish with different shows for the youth and families, retreats, mass, meditations, et
 - [Office of Youth Ministry](#)
 - Weekly Youth Nights on Zoom for Middle School and High School Teens
- [National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry:](#) Resources for how to minister to youth through this crisis, how to talk to children and youth about coronavirus, and more
- Livestreamed Masses
 - [10:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral](#)
 - [Masses in Spanish in Diocese of Savannah](#)
 - [Ascension Presents – Mass with Fr Mike Schmitz](#)

- [Holy Hours](#)
- [Edmodo](#): Learner management software

Resources from Major Publishers: It would be best to utilize one of these resources if your parish is already using the corresponding materials from one of these publishers, many have online versions of the books used in the classrooms. Some are giving access to this for free during the pandemic.

- [Sadlier](#):
 - Offering free eBooks to aid with distance learning for parishes that have purchased books through them. Call (800) 221-5175 to access
 - *E Books offered in Bilingual versions*
- Our Sunday Visitor:
 - [Alive in Christ Series](#) Has digital content for parishes with texts, including downloadable lessons, quizzes catechists can send to families and more. *The family website is offered in Spanish and has downloadable lessons in Spanish.*
 - [Teaching Catholic Kids Blog](#)
- RCL Benzinger:
 - [Blessed Are We](#) and [Be My Disciples](#) have digital and print resources
 - [Websites and resources for Spanish versions.](#)
 - Contact [Linda](#) for more information
- Loyola Press: Lessons listed by grade, family discussion of Sunday Gospel
 - [English](#)
 - [Spanish](#)
- [Catholic Faith Technologies \(My Catholic Faith Delivered\) and Ignatius Press](#): FREE Faith and Life courses for those students soon celebrating Confirmation, First Communion, or enrolled in on-site religious education. Free licensing available through June 2020. Questions: info@catholicfaithtech.com
 - *Faith and Life in Spanish also available online*
- [Sophia Institute for Teachers](#): is offering free [sacramental prep lessons](#).
 - [Family of Faith](#) series is offered in both English *and Spanish* and is set up for at home Catechesis
- [Pflaum Gospel Weeklies](#): Free downloadable Gospel weeklies, *videos and website with lessons available in Spanish.*

Resources for Sacramental Preparation: Many of the major publishers above have Sacramental Preparation programs with digital versions. If your parishes is using one of those programs for formation, contact the publisher.

- These programs can be viewed with a [Formed.org](#) subscription- *Formed is currently giving away 40 days free to new subscribers.*
 - Reborn: Baptism Preparation
 - [Presence Series](#): & [Forgiven Series](#): Excellent Catechesis on Eucharist and Reconciliation for parents of First Communion or any adult, available to stream on Formed.org or can purchase DVDs.
 - *Videos and Parent workbooks available in Spanish*

- [Signs of Grace:](#)
 - Designed to work in concert with Presence and Forgiven series, available on Formed.org platform
 - Workbooks have *take home sheets in Spanish*, but rest of materials are in English
- [YDisciple Confirmation:](#) Videos for teens
 - *Parent sheets available in Spanish*
- [Dynamic Catholic Blessed and Forgiven Series:](#) First Communion and First Reconciliation preparation videos and workbooks
 - Free downloads of workbooks and leader guides are available in both English and *in Spanish*
- [Chosen Confirmation Series:](#) Confirmation preparation videos and workbooks
 - *Workbooks, Parent Guides, Sponsor Guides available in Spanish*
 - Videos in English
- [YouCat Series:](#)
 - Youth Catechism, Confirmation Handbook, Bible, Prayer book, guides and more.
 - *All book available in Spanish*

Streaming Platforms:

- [Formed.org:](#) Videos, eBooks, movies, digital talks for adults, teens, and children
 - [Many programs offered in Spanish](#)
- [Ascension Press:](#) Online learning programs, including sacramental preparation
- [Redeemed Online:](#) Daily Lenten reflection emails
- [Wild Goose Ministry:](#) Fr Dave Privonka's streaming programs are available for free.
 - *Wild Goose video series online in Spanish.*
- [Magis Center:](#) Fr. Spitzer's resources for youth and parents on science, apologetics, spirituality, and theology
- [Project YM:](#) Live youth nights that teens can log into

Prayer Resources:

- [Magnificat:](#) Daily readings, currently offering free digital content
- [Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:](#) Resources for Parents on praying with children, newsletters, setting up a family prayer table, how to talk with children about the disease. Most resources are applicable without using their program. [Resource page for families in Spanish.](#)
- [Hallow App:](#) Meditative prayer app, great to help calm anxieties and build a routine of prayer
- [The Word Among Us](#) – available in both English and *in Spanish*
- [Worship at Home:](#) Free Sunday Resources for Families

YouTube channels:

- [Brother Francis:](#) for children, *Spanish versions available*
- [Matt Fradd:](#) popular Catholic speaker
- [Fr. Mike Schmitz:](#) Popular priest discusses various topics on the faith, great for adults and teens

- [Christopher Stefanik](#): Videos from a popular Catholic speaker
- [Life Teen](#): Videos, lessons, bible study, social media for teens
- [Word on Fire Institute](#): Bishop Robert Barron's teachings

Blogs:

- [Look to Him and Be Radiant with Joy](#): Blog with activities and resources for all ages
- [Catholic Icing](#): Blog with ideas for activities and crafts for younger students
- [Elizabeth Clare Blog](#): Ideas for living the faith in the home
- [Catholicmom.com](#): Various blog ideas
- [Catholic.net](#): *Family resources in Spanish*

Training

- Our [Catechetical Certification Partner Franciscan at Home](#) has many workshops for Catechists, Catechetical Leadership as well as a new track for Parents! Subscribing parishes have access for all parishioners. Website and workshops available *in Spanish*
- [NFCYM Webinars](#): Focused on how to support families and young people in this time, webinars offered *in Spanish*.
- The Office of Hispanic Ministry is offering weekly webinars with our Diocesan priests *in Spanish*.