

Guidelines for those who Home School

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Faith Formation Program Parent Manual & Guide statement of purpose is: All Faith Formation opportunities for children are intended to complement the religious formation done by the parents by recognizing the knowledge of God's love for us, showing how that love can be expressed sacramentally, and by modeling service to the community and the church. Supported by a parish community that catechizes by its lifestyle, liturgy, service, and hospitality, children grow spiritually through the formal and informal sharing of God's Word. The goal is to provide the children who are catechized with a real sense of belonging to the community.

Program

Those who want to home school their children are required to contact the pastor, or the one delegated by him to be in charge of the parish-based program for approval.

Parents/guardians who home school, are to register their children according to the regulations and policy procedures established by the parish.

Parents/guardians who home school, together with their children, will use the catechetical text and supplementary catechetical resources established by the parish program and periodically meet to review the progress of their catechetical efforts.

Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to attend the catechist formation sessions and in-services.

Sacraments

Parents/ guardians who home school, together with their children are to participate in all dimensions of the parish program for sacramental catechesis: catechetical, ritual, service, spiritual [retreats, etc.] and any other requirements for sacramental preparation as determined by the parish.

Sacramental catechesis "is an essentially ecclesial act" [GDC, #78] and therefore "not an action which can be realized in the community on a private basis or by purely personal initiative" [GDC, #219.b]. Sacramental catechesis, therefore, takes place in a parish based-program.

The proper context for the celebration of the sacraments is the parish community. "Liturgical services are not private functions, but are celebrations belonging to the Church, which is the 'sacrament of unity,' " [CSL, #26].

Children/youth who are home schooled are to celebrate the sacraments and the immediate preparation for the sacrament in the parish at the time determined for those in the parish-based program. Those who choose to home school their children are to fully participate in all the parish based programs for sacramental catechesis.