



St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church  
-Religious Education Ministry Office-  
176 Stagecoach Rd. Sicklerville, NJ 08081 (856) 629-0411 Ext. 116

May 5, 2025

Dear Families of St. Charles Borromeo Parish,

This year is a Jubilee year in our church and we are encouraged to be “Pilgrims of Hope.” And so, we especially want to celebrate “Hope” on behalf of Pope Francis who has now ended his journey on earth and rejoicing with God the Father, in heaven. “Hope does not disappoint” (Rom. 5:5) this is the message for the Jubilee. Pope Francis reminds us, “In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come.” Bishop Sullivan, while reflecting on this Jubilee year said, “the Catholic family needs hope in these times, and the faithful need reminding, that the door to God’s heart is always open.” The opening of the Jubilee Door at St. Peter’s invites us into an encounter with Christ. During this year of the Jubilee, we will also be encouraged to take a better look at how we provide religious education for the families of our parish to help facilitate encounters with our Lord, that leads the whole family to a well-lived faith with the Eucharist at the center.

Our religious education program is offered in the hopes of providing two very important things to the children and by extension the domestic church – your family. The program seeks to provide not only education in the faith but an encounter with our loving Father. These two things, education and encounter, are beneficial for the whole family, as children first learn to love the Lord through those entrusted to care for them. This is what the diocese has identified as evangelizing catechesis.

Our parish will be partnering with two neighboring parishes (Our Lady of Peace in Williamstown & St.’s Peter & Paul in Turnersville) to help widen your access to religious education while still being an active member of our parish. The partnership will begin this coming summer with the summer intensive program. Our three parishes will be collaborating, sharing ideas, program offerings, catechetical teams and giving greater access to faith based and liturgical experiences to families.

The whole program will have 3 very important elements: 1: Sunday Liturgy (Mass) as a primary source for worship and catechesis, 2: Family Catechetical Gatherings (FCG) to reinforce and grow the domestic church and support parents/guardians as primary educators in matters of faith for their children, and 3: Catechesis for children where they will learn about our faith in a wraparound spiral curriculum format and prepare for the reception of Sacraments.

Mass, for the baptized, is essential to how we grow in grace and relationship with Jesus. When we go to Mass, we are connected to the life-giving saving grace of Christ – His life, death and resurrection, which is perfectly re-presented at Mass. Christ is present to us in the words of Scripture piercing our heart and minds and, in the Eucharist, to nourish and transform us. As the baptized, we offer to God the Father the only perfect sacrifice: the Son. And, since the Son has generously made us members of his body through baptism, we have an obligation to active participation at the liturgy.

The monthly Family Catechetical Gatherings are open to the whole parish community but designed to bring families together around the table to learn and review the beauty of our Catholic Faith, which is rich in tradition and celebrations throughout the entire liturgical year. The three parishes will be using the same curriculum, and the monthly gatherings will be more reflective of the parish's own charism and culture. That said, families will be permitted to participate in the other parish's FCG session if the one at our parish does not work for your family's schedule in any given month. This will give families 3 options monthly for the FCG or other catechetical events/liturgical celebrations offered at the parish.

For catechesis, each parish will continue to offer the typical Fall to Spring programs for children – levels 1 through 8. Each parish will also offer an 8-day stretch of intensive catechesis in the summer. Families who have scheduling conflict will be permitted to attend religious education at a partnering parish. Preparation and reception of Sacraments (Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation) is to be done at the parish where the family is registered as well as home-based catechesis.

We are excited and hopeful to see how we can all grow together by giving families more opportunities for encounter and catechesis. Thank you for your patience and enthusiasm. Please see attached information regarding the Fall/Spring registration.

In Christ,

*Felicita Navarro Morris*

Felicita Navarro Morris

Director of Religious Education

[dre@saint-charles-borromeo.org](mailto:dre@saint-charles-borromeo.org)

CC:

Msgr. Peter Joyce



St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church  
-Religious Education Ministry Office-  
176 Stagecoach Rd. Sicklerville, NJ 08081 (856) 629-0411 Ext. 116

**Fall/Spring Religious Education:** Late September to late April/early May 2025-2026

**St. Charles:** Sunday mornings 10:15am to 11:15am & Tuesday evenings 5:30pm-6:30pm

Homebased Catechesis (Parent only led catechesis in the home and can only be done through the home parish)

**Religious Education fees:**

\$150 for 1 child - \$250 for 2 children - \$300 for 3 children - \$50 for each additional child after that.

Homebased Catechesis \$75 per child

**Sacrament materials fee:**

First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion - \$50 per child (to be paid the year the child is to receive the Sacrament)

Confirmation - \$65 per Candidate (to be paid the year the candidate is to receive the Sacrament)

**Our Lady of Peace Parish:** Thurs. evenings 5:45pm-7pm (you may register with us and make payment payable to OLOPP)

**St.'s Peter and Paul Parish:** Tues. evenings 4:30pm-5:30pm (You may register with us and make payment payable to SPP)

**Questions you may have**

- 1. Why is the whole family required to attend the Family Catechetical Gatherings (FCG) portion of the program during the year if we are enrolling our child in the summer program?** *The FCG portion of faith formation/religious education is the 2nd most important part of the program with Sunday Liturgy (Mass) being the primary source of catechesis and worship. The FCG allows the parish an opportunity to build up the domestic church and support parents in their role as primary educators of faith for their children. The SIP, Fall/Spring or home-based catechesis is the third part of the program.*
- 2. What if my family is not able to attend the FCG offered at St. Charles?** *Families with scheduling conflicts for the FCG may attend an FCG at either of the 2 parishes in the collaborative. We will share the schedule of all 3 parishes once available. This will help to give families more options. Always remember to sign-in/sign-up for gatherings.*
- 3. The traditional classroom is the only one that works for our family's schedule, but we cannot afford the fee. Is there a discount, a payment plan or some kind of assistance?** *Families with financial need may apply for assistance or fee deduction/waiver. It is the responsibility of the parish to provide and give access to faith formation/religious education to all families of the parish. Please speak to your parish Director or Catechetical Leader.*
- 4. What is Home-based catechesis?** *Home-based catechesis brings the curriculum for religious education into the home with the parent/guardian as catechist for the child(ren.) Parents are given the materials they need and online access to the curriculum program. Children may receive e-books or hard copy books. Parents set the pace for completing the lessons at home and forward/turn-in chapter and unit reviews either weekly or monthly. (Please note that only the parent or guardian may be the catechist in the home.)*
- 5. What if we start with Home-based catechesis and then decide to switch to classroom model?** *Since the children are following the same curriculum schedule (both at home and in the classroom) transferring into the classroom model will not be a problem. Families will need to cover the difference at the time of transfer.*
- 6. If my family can only do the Religious Education at another parish, what are the steps?** *If your family needs to register for religious education at one of the other 2 parishes, you may register with us and make payment to that parish. Their fee may or not be the same as ours. We will then forward the registration. Their director will reach out to your family with instructions afterwards. If you need to register at a parish outside of the collaborative, you must request permission from the pastor so that arrangements may be made.*