



Diocese of Joliet

Diocese of Joliet Framework for Pastoral Action Resources for Faith Formation and Evangelization: Parents of Children Preparing for Sacraments

Families of children preparing for First Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation should receive good adult formation, along with strategies to connect them to the community of faith. Here are some ideas for parent meetings, along with home resources, suitable for use any year, especially for parents who are returning to or minimally connected to the Church.

Background Preparation for Parish Leaders:

Building a Eucharistic Community: A Handbook for Liturgical Catechesis Mary J. McDonald. 2001 Resource Publications. Chapter 6 – Rites, Signs and Symbols – pieces can be incorporated into your talk – reflection questions for leaders can shape how you talk about the Mass.

Eucharist by Rev. Robert Barron. 2008 Orbis Books/RCL Benziger. A lively, readable discussion of what really matters and what the Eucharist really means. Also available as a book on tape.

Living the Mass: How One Hour a Week Can Change Your Life, by Fr. Dominic Grassi & Joe Paprocki, 2005 Loyola Press.

The Mass is Never Ended: Rediscovering Our Mission to Transform the World by Gregory F. Augustine Pierce, 2007 Ave Maria Press. How the Mass equips us for the workday world.

The Sacrament of Charity (Sacramentum Caritatis) Pope Benedict XVI. 2007, USCCB Publication 7-002. The Holy Father's post-synodal apostolic exhortation is a readable update on the theology of the Eucharist.

Resources for Gathering, Connecting, Sharing:



Embracing the Vision: Sacramental Catechesis for First Reconciliation and First Communion, by Sr. Linda Gaupin. 2007 Twenty-Third Publications (available through Our Sunday Visitor) Focus on liturgical prayer and adult conversion. Sessions for families are included, with handouts, CD-Rom.

The Evangelizing Liturgy, (DVD) Fr. Frank DeSiano, Paulist Evangelization Ministries, 2012. This 40-minute video looks at the Mass through the lens of evangelization—how the Word of God comes to us, and how we respond – and five parts of the Mass that express and deepen our conversion experience.

First Eucharist and First Reconciliation Parent talks (videos) – Tom Quinlan. Recorded at Our Lady of Peace, Darien, these are useful as examples or as make-up videos for parents who miss your live presentations. Find and download the complete videos here:

<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/subsectioncontent.php?secid=6&subsecid=18>

Forming the Assembly to Celebrate the Mass – by Lawrence E. Mick. 2002 Liturgy Training Publications. Recommended: use the information in chapters on Word and Sacrifice, and the accompanying discussion questions.

Gather in My Name: Eucharist. Sadlier. Web-based plan for whole-community gathering about Eucharist – <http://www.webbelieveweb.com/gather.cfm?page=eucharist>

Keeping Faith First: A Resource Supporting the Whole Community of Faith - Session 8 "Eucharist and the Mass" RCL/Benziger. Master for a reproducible handout for a complete adult session.

Threshold Bible Study: Eucharist by Stephen J. Binz. 2005 Twenty-Third Publications. Choose any of 30 Scripture-based sessions, consisting of a reading, reflection and discussion and prayer.

What Does it Mean to Be Catholic? Engaging Adults in Meaningful Conversation (Gathering Sessions) by Jane Regan & Mimi McReavy Bitzan. 2005 Loyola Press – Finding God series)
Session D: Invitation to the Feast.

Short Videos to Supplement Parent Meetings:

Come and See/Vengan y Verán (DVD – two versions, English and Spanish) Loyola Press. The section called “Ritual Matters” (9.5 min.) is a powerful celebration of how family and religious rituals are related, to help parents understand the Mass. “Your Role at Mass” (23 min.) is an engaging way to help parents learn how they, and their children, fit into the celebration of the Mass. (Available in the Diocesan Media Center - Order # LLWX0094) or <http://www.loyolapress.com/gods-gift-sacramental-preparation-come-and-see-dvd-09.htm>

Family: God is in the Mix of it all – DVD Fr. Joe Kempf. Four 10-12 minute segments on family life, marriage, parenting and entrusting your child to God
<https://www.osvparish.com/Shop/Product.aspx?ProductCode=X1588>

Live Catholic: Practical Ways to Build Strong Catholic Families – DVD National Catholic Federation for Youth Ministry. Four segments and accompanying handouts on strategies for living the Catholic family life. <http://store.nfcym.org/shop/pc/Live-Catholic-Practical-Ways-to-Build-Strong-Catholic-Families-20p767.htm#details>

Send-Home Guides & Resources for the Domestic Church:

Catholic Family Fun: A Guide for the Adventurous, Overwhelmed, Creative or Clueless – Sarah A. Reinhard, 2012, Pauline Books & Media. Activities, story-starters, craft projects and more.

The Catholic Faith & Family Bible – (NRSV Translation) – Harper, Center for Ministry Development and Our Sunday Visitor – 2010.

The Catholic Family Connections Bible – (NAB Translation) – St. Mary’s Press, 2010.

The Catholic Home: Celebrations and Traditions for Holidays, Feast Days and Every Day – Meredith Gould, 2004, Doubleday. Dissolve the boundaries between church and home by making the liturgical year special in the home.

Catholic Parent Know-How: Sacraments Series, Our Sunday Visitor. Colorful magazines with pointers, scripture and more.

Catholic Update Guides (Baptism, Communion, Confirmation and the Mass available) - Mary Carol Kendzia, 2011, Liguori Publications. 50-page booklets of brief essentials on the Sacraments)

People of Faith/Generations Learning Together Magazines: Eucharist (Harcourt Religion) – a colorful magazine on Eucharist filled with family learning activities.

Prayers and Rituals for the Home: Celebrating the Life and Times of Your Family – Kathy Hendricks, 2013, Twenty-Third Publications. Uplifting prayer rituals and practices for the home.

Why Go to Mass? - Nick Wagner, 2010, Twenty-Third Publications. A simple 20-page pamphlet explaining the Mass and its symbols and customs.

(For more information about these and other resources, contact Joyce Donahue of the Religious Education Office at jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org) 815-221-6146.