



Catechism Policy 2025-2026

General Policies

- At your child(ren)'s baptism, you, as parents, accepted the responsibility to educate them in the practice of the faith, and to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us. This responsibility cannot be renounced, and remains both your duty and your right as parents.
- Now that religion is no longer taught in schools, the church seeks to assist you in the carrying out of these responsibilities by offering our catechism program.

Specific Policies (ATTENTION TO NEW POLICY)

- **NEW** - Throughout the year at each level, there will be a **mandatory field trip** for all children to attend. Whether the child attends catechism **in person** or is taught at **home**.
- **NEW** - Our catechism program will encompass 2 to 3 activities in the Church throughout the year for each level. Whether the child attends catechism **in person** at the DBYLC, in the Church hall, or is taught at **home**.
- **NEW** – Upon Registration, every parent will receive a box of donation envelopes for the 2026 year.
- **NEW** – This year we have a program called **"The Search"**, a 7-week program offered at least twice a year. All parents will be expected to participate as it is offered during the catechism period.
- Registration in our 'Be My Disciples' Catechism Program raises the expectation that you and your child(ren) will participate **fully** and **accordingly**.
- Our 'Be My Disciples' Catechism Program is offered from **levels 2 to 5** and runs for **20 weeks** throughout the school year (October to roughly March / April).
- At our parish, the sacraments of First Confession and First Communion are received in **level 3** and the Sacrament of Confirmation is received in **level 5**.
- Each child needs to complete **2 years** of catechism **prior** to each sacrament.
- The Catholic faith is not just knowledge; it is about a relationship with **God**, in which our human families come together to form the family of God.

Parent meetings and Mass attendance

- Parent(s) meetings in September or October & in January are mandatory, as you will receive all forms, information and catechetical instructions for the year.
- Mass attendance (Saturday at 5 pm or Sunday at 11 am) is **obligatory** by all **children** enrolled in catechism, **accompanied by their parents**, we require that the child(ren) receive **20 stamps in their Mass Card**.
- Many families grow to see mass as a highlight of their week, where they can grow in love with God and meet other families supportive of their catholic values.

Home Program (ATTENTION TO NEW POLICY)

- **NEW** – Home program will be allowed only in **specific cases**, which will have to be discussed with the Faith and Family Team. Once given permission to have your child(ren) learn at home, you are responsible for guiding your child(ren) in the **completion** of their workbook and **supplementary material** that will could be provided through our catechist, according to the schedule we provide.

- **Attendance** will be taken by **submission** of the **chapter review** (online at www.bemydisciples.com)
- You **must submit** your chapter review with the child's **full name** and send it to faithandfamily@mmaparish.ca.
- For the **home groups**, there will be a mandatory **workbook check** (dates to be determined)
- **Failure** to **submit** chapter reviews by the **following Sunday** in your schedule will result as an **absence**.
- After **4** absences, our team will **sit with you** to discuss the readiness of your child(ren) and take appropriate measures to either continue the program or ask you to **re-register** for the same level the following year.

Rehearsals

- Rehearsals for sacraments happening in 2026 are **mandatory** for the child, parents, and godparents.
- **Failure** to show up for rehearsal will result in **the cancellation of** the child's sacrament.

Photos

- **Registration** for our catechism program grants us permission to use images taken at events for use on our website, social media, and in our church bulletin.

Payments

- Catechism fees are payable at **registration time** and are **non-refundable**.
- If you require a **special financial arrangement**, please **e-mail** faithandfamily@mmaparish.ca.

Responsibilities

- We wish that the catechism program follows a climate of **respect** for all concerned: children, parents, volunteers, and coordinators.
- We expect the same level of **commitment** as you give to school, sports programs, and other activities in your child(ren)'s lives.
- Parents are free to **withdraw** their child(ren) & celebrate the sacraments elsewhere (**NO refunds, NO exceptions**).
- Our team reserves the right to ask a family to withdraw their child if the requirements are **not** being fulfilled or for **any** serious reasons.