

Catechetical Sunday Kit

Learn all about Catechetical Sunday, including its history and this year's theme with a ***Catechetical Sunday Faith Fact*** 1

Invite children to personalize a prayer for a special catechist with ***A Prayer for My Catechist Activity*** 3

Incorporate ***5 Fun Ways to Celebrate Catechetical Sunday*** with this eBook 4

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Catechetical Sunday

Faith Fact

What is
Catechetical
Sunday?

As part of a 1935 initiative to recognize and celebrate the gift that catechists give to their parish communities by volunteering their time for the education of children, the Church began what we know today as Catechetical Sunday. On Catechetical Sunday, we come together as both a parish and Church community to acknowledge the dedication of those who serve as catechists in our parish family. On Catechetical Sunday, parents and guardians are also honored because they are the true first catechists, sharing the Catholic faith with their families. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all Catholics to rededicate themselves to the mission of handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel as a community of faith. The day also provides an opportunity for us to consider ways we are witnesses for Jesus Christ ourselves.

When is
Catechetical
Sunday 2020?

Always the third Sunday in September, this year Catechetical Sunday will fall on September 20, 2020.

What is
this year's
theme?

The 2020 Catechetical Sunday theme stems from Saint Paul's words in his first letter to the Corinthians: "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you." The theme encourages us to focus on and prioritize catechist formation. Through catechesis, those who catechize are handing on the faith. This year's theme reminds us that catechists are the instruments through which many come to encounter Christ and hear Christ's invitation to new life in him.

Where can
I find
Catechetical
Sunday
resources?

Each year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops shares resources and materials for teaching about Catechetical Sunday. You can find some excellent resources for your parish, your family, or your classroom [here](#). USCCB Publishing also sells printed copies of prayer cards, family commitment cards, posters, and certificates in English and Spanish for Catechetical Sunday.



Suggestions for Celebrating Catechetical Sunday



In the Parish or School

Choose a day preceding September 20 to celebrate Catechetical Sunday with the students in your religious education program. You might center your celebration on prayer in addition to thanking and honoring the catechists you appreciate and admire. On this day, coordinate a series of activities for students. Depending on social distancing guidelines in your area, you may do this virtually or face-to-face. You may ask students to create posters, write articles as submissions to the school newspaper or parish bulletin, or to compose prayers for their catechists and parents.

At Home

All those who teach the Catholic faith and share the Church's teachings are catechists. Parents are their children's first catechists. Individuals who teach others about Jesus by the way they live are catechizing, too. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity to thank catechists for the work that they do. It is also an opportunity for catechists and parents to reflect on their call to share and live out their faith. Teach your child about the role of a catechist. Identify the catechists present in your family's life and discuss the role of these people in your community. Make a plan to personally express your gratitude to these catechists on Catechetical Sunday. Or, ask your students to thank a special catechist with the printable activity on page 3!





A Prayer for

(name of my catechist)

Thank you for your good work

Your words

Your faith

Your teaching;

May I grow to share

What I have learned through you

And the Word of God

To turn the hearts of many

Toward the Lord.

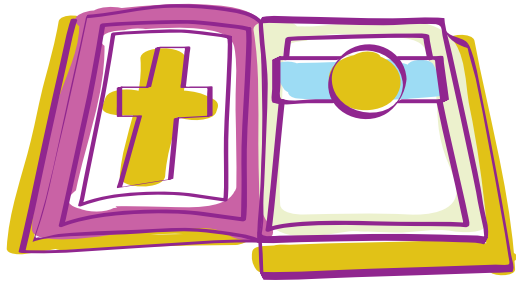
Amen.

With admiration and appreciation,

(my name)

5 Fun Ways to Celebrate Catechetical Sunday

As part of a 1935 initiative to recognize and celebrate the gift that catechists give to their parish communities by volunteering their time for the education of children, the Church began what we know today as Catechetical Sunday. On Catechetical Sunday, we come together as both a parish and Church community to acknowledge the dedication of those who serve as catechists in our parish family. This year, Catechetical Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, September 20. Seize the wonderful opportunity to say “thank you” to those who serve your religious education program! Here are some of our ideas to help you celebrate Catechetical Sunday as a parish community.



1. Celebrate the Eucharist

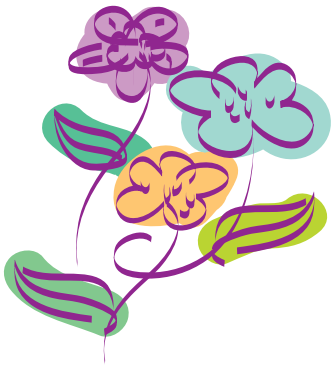
As Catholics, the most important way we celebrate any occasion is together around the table of the altar in the liturgy. Work with your pastor to plan a liturgy for Catechetical Sunday that focuses specifically on the catechists and thanking them. If a live, in-person Mass is not possible, live stream the Mass on social media. Plan a special commissioning, ask your priests to speak particularly about the catechists in their homily, and if possible, present a small token as a gift to catechists as they leave Mass or send one to them at home.



2. Prepare a Meal

The most timeless way to say “thank you” is with food! Cater brunch or ask the participating families in your religious education program to sign up to donate dishes. Host a brunch in your parish center before the Mass or a luncheon after Mass in which catechists will be commissioned. If gathering together for a meal is not possible, plan to get together via videoconference for coffee, or prepare and deliver snack or treat baskets to the catechists to enjoy at home. Let catechists come together, share stories and laughter with other catechists whether around the computer or around the table, and feel appreciated!





3. Make a Spiritual Bouquet

A spiritual bouquet is a great way to pray for catechists, to invite students to do the same, and to say thank you! Prepare a poster board for each catechist. On each poster board, draw a group of flowers in the shape of a bouquet. (You can do this any way you'd like! Get creative, involve the students, and have fun!) Invite each catechist's students to write a prayer for their catechist on a slip of paper. In this prayer, invite students to tell God how thankful they are for their catechist and to include the things they'd ask God to bless their catechist with. Glue each student's prayer to the individual stems drawn on the poster and present to catechists for a beautiful keepsake filled with gratitude! Or use software to create a slide presentation in which each slide represents the contributions of each student and email the file as a gift to the catechist.

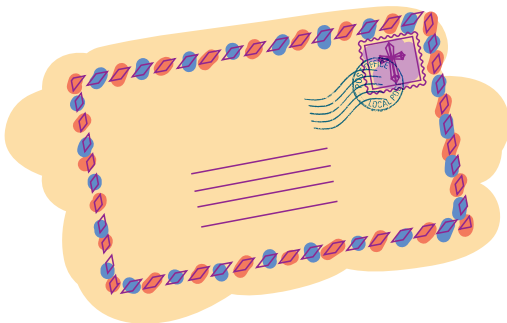
4. Provide a Spiritual Experience Just for Catechists

Often, once someone becomes a catechist, they spend more time giving themselves in their faith than receiving formation. While this can be a beautiful gift of self, it is important that we help to keep the faith lives of our catechists full and healthy. A great way to do this is to provide opportunities that will inspire them on their own faith journey, completely separate from the classroom. As a way to say thank you, plan a day that focuses specifically on your catechists' walk with the Lord and helps them grow deeper in their own relationship with Jesus Christ. Consider a retreat experience or a day of formation focused on this year's Catechetical Sunday theme and focus on ways that catechists can accompany young people and their families and give them hope.



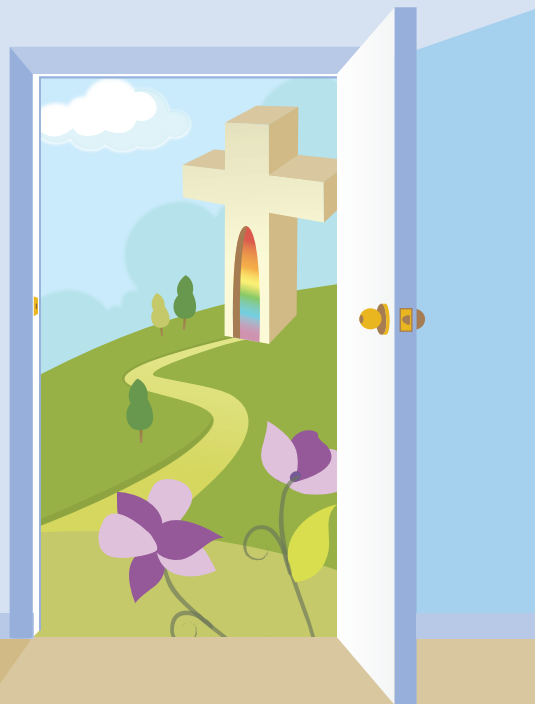
5. Special Delivery

As part of your parish's celebration of Catechetical Sunday, ask parents to write thank you letters to a particular catechist. Perhaps it is the catechist who taught their child this year or one that has been particularly special to their family. Letters should extend gratitude for the catechist's gift of service, with inspirational words, and maybe even anecdotes about ways she or he has inspired the family. Ensure you have a letter for every catechist, and then mail letters to the catechists' homes. (Note: home addresses or personal information should not be shared.) Try to time the delivery of letters to arrive the Saturday before Catechetical Sunday!



Prayer for a Catechist's Soul

Gracious God,
Open the door to my soul and bring me peace and perspective.
May I learn to be at home with myself,
and to extend a hospitable welcome to your indwelling Spirit.
Open the door to my heart and grace me with compassion and understanding.
May I see with the eyes of Christ all of those I am called to catechize.
Open the door to my mind and soften my thoughts.
May I make room for both ideas and imagination,
ever aware that knowledge is a gift of your Spirit.
Give me a joyful soul, heart, and mind
so that I share with others the great news of salvation and redemption.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ, I pray.
Amen.



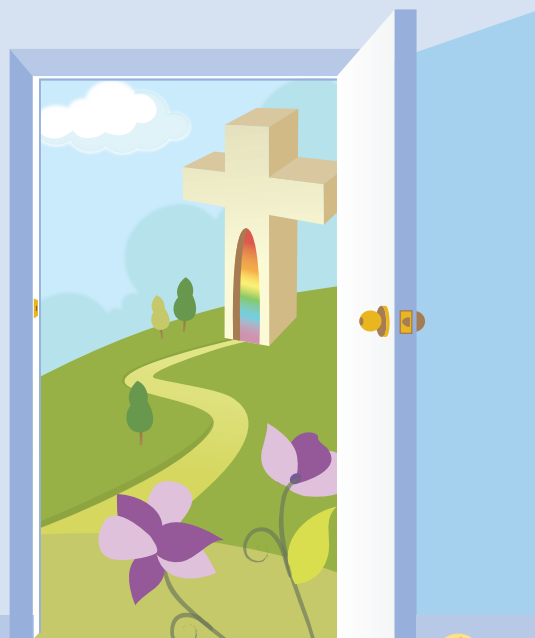
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Prayer for a Catechist's Soul

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Open the door to my heart and grace me with compassion and understanding.
May I see with the eyes of Christ all of those I am called to catechize.
Open the door to my mind and soften my thoughts.
May I make room for both ideas and imagination,
ever aware that knowledge is a gift of your Spirit.
Give me a joyful soul, heart, and mind
so that I share with others the great news of salvation and redemption.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ, I pray.
Amen.



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