

2020-2021

SAMPLE SCHEDULES

Plan Your Year ♦ Form Whole Families!

The following section will help you schedule faith formation sessions for the year. Whether you want to schedule only a couple whole family events for the year one for every week, our sample schedules will point you in the right direction.

The schedules list Sunday dates, but sessions may be held any time during that week (or the week preceding that Sunday).

Shelter-in-Place / Modified Sessions

Many parishes may not be able to gather families in large groups as we are accustomed to for some time. Restrictions will be loosened as prudent over a period of time. As leaders, we will need to be thoughtful as we consider how to help parents continue to share faith with their children, while keeping families connected to the parish community.

There are various logistics to consider. Instruction and activity pages from reproducible resources could be emailed to parents, but some families may not have a home printer or art supplies. If you can, make packs of supplies including all materials that can be picked up at the parish or delivered by postal mail.

It is important to coach parents and keep a personal connection as best we can, rather than simply sending "homework" home and hoping for the best. Ideally, the materials we send home are designed for parents and lead them step-by-step. But even so, we shouldn't completely rely on just the resources.

Here are the kinds of events we may be looking at:

- **Independent at-home sessions.** Parents "home-schooling" their own children on their own schedule using materials emailed or sent home. Even if we can't connect with them "live," consider pre-recording a video introduction. This add a personal touch and extra incentive to try the activities. You could also record one video per activity to demonstrate. Keep the videos short, sweet, and engaging.
- **Live streamed at-home sessions.** If possible, facilitate sessions remotely to keep a strong connection to the parish and a sense of community. Families are used to these kinds of sessions from school, virtual play dates, and even extended family. You could hold a live Zoom/video session to introduce the activities, let families work on them while on the call, and answer questions through group chat. Let families see each other on live video!

- **Limited parish sessions with some social distancing.** At some point, you will be able to hold limited at-parish sessions. You may be limited by the number of people you can gather in the same room or by how closely families can gather. A whole family approach will help you, as parents will be able to manage their own children and stay separated from other families. Be sure to stock up on hand and surface sanitizer (we have available at a good discount right here).

Types of Sessions

The schedules include two kinds of sessions:

- **Whole family sessions** are held with parents and children side-by-side. Learn more about resources for these sessions in the "Whole Family Sessions" section of this document. This year, some of these sessions may be facilitated by video conference (e.g. Zoom) or sent home.
- **Parent-only sessions** can be held concurrently with child lessons in a separate room or at a separate time. If you are not providing whole family sessions every week, we encourage you to gather parents for their own formation. Options for **parent-only sessions** can be found in the "Parent Sessions" section of this guide. These can also be held via video conference if necessary.

Adapt for Your Own Use

The sample schedules are just a suggested starting point, and we have provided a blank schedule for you to fill in yourself. Later sections in this planner give you other ideas by topic and date.

Building Your Own Schedule

1. **Select the weeks of the year when you will meet.** We have provided a blank schedule in a separate Microsoft Word file. Simply remove weeks that your program will take off.
2. **Decide how often you will host whole family sessions.** You may choose to have parents and children participating in activities together every week, once a month, a couple times a year, or some other frequency.
3. **Choose the topics and activities for the whole family sessions.** Whole family sessions are generally made up of multiple activities that can be used with a learning center approach. Some resources offer you multiple activities on a given topic from which you can choose for a given day (or spread across multiple weeks). We have also identified activities on the same topic across resources that you can group together for one or more events.
4. **Schedule parent sessions on weeks when you are not holding whole family sessions.**
 - Sometimes you may wish to use resources to form parents around the same topics that their children are learning about. The *Growing Up Catholic Parent Learning Centers* and *Growing Up Catholic Whole Family Catechesis* resources includes parent sessions for each of eleven core doctrinal topics. We recommend selecting topics to more closely coincide with the units being covered during the same period in the child curriculum you are using.
 - At other times, we recommend that you offer sessions on parenting and general adult faith formation topics.

Sample Schedule: Hybrid Whole Family

This schedule provides a mix of whole family sessions (with parents and children side-by-side) and separate child and parents sessions (held concurrently in separate rooms). It assumes you have a separate curriculum you want to use for your child-only sessions.

	Sunday	Children	Parents
8/30	22 nd in OT	Start of the Catechetical Year (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/august)	
9/6	23 rd in OT	<i>No sessions: Labor Day</i>	
9/13	24 th in OT	<i>Other curriculum</i>	GUC Parent Conversations: Good Sports: Session 1 • GUC703
9/20	25 th in OT		GUC Parent Conversations: Good Sports: Session 2 • GUC703
9/27	26 th in OT		GUC Parent Conversations: Good Sports: Session 3 • GUC703
10/4	27 th in OT	Safe Environment/Loving Relationships (https://pastoral.center/life)	
10/11	28 th in OT	<i>Other curriculum</i>	GUC Parent Conversations: Good Sports: Session 4 • GUC703
10/18	29 th in OT		GUC Parent Conversations: Good Sports: Session 5 • GUC703
10/25	30 th in OT		GUC Parent Conversations: Good Sports: Session 6 • GUC703
11/1	All Saints	Fall Learning Centers: All Saints/Beatitudes (https://pastoral.center/fall-learning-centers-for-whole-family-catechesis-eresource)	
11/8	32 nd in OT	<i>Other curriculum</i>	GUC Parent Learning Centers: Meet & Walk With Jesus • XXFG104
11/15	33 rd in OT		The Catholic Way: Discipleship • CW245
11/22	Christ the King	Preparing for Advent (We recommend this week, since Advent begins Thanksgiving weekend) ▶ <i>Coaching Parents for Advent</i> • PC301 (For 1st Sunday) ▶ <i>Children of the Light: Advent Wreath-Making Workshop & Prayers</i> • LR103	
11/29	1 st in Advent	<i>Other curriculum</i>	Around the Advent Circle 2020: Session 1 • PC320
12/6	2 nd in Advent		Around the Advent Circle 2020: Session 2 • PC320
12/13	3 rd in Advent	Advent (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/advent). Especially: ▶ One of the <i>LearningCycles</i> Advent-themed topics ▶ One of the <i>Seasons by Step</i> series for Advent.	
12/20	4 th in Advent	<i>Other curriculum</i>	Around the Advent Circle 2020: Session 4 • PC320
12/27	Holy Family	<i>No sessions: Between Christmas and New Year's</i>	
1/3	Epiphany	<i>Other curriculum</i>	Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age: Documentary • MD100
1/10	Baptism of the Lord		GUC Parent Conversations: Taming Technology: Session 1 • PC190

	Sunday	Children	Parents
1/17	2 nd in OT	Following Jesus (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/discipleship)	
1/24	3 rd in OT	<i>Other curriculum</i>	GUC Parent Conversations: Taming Technology: Session 2 • PC190
1/31	4 th in OT	<i>Other curriculum</i>	GUC Parent Conversations: Taming Technology: Session 3 • PC190
2/7	5 th in OT		GUC Parent Conversations: Taming Technology: Session 4 • PC190
2/14	6 th in OT	<i>No sessions: President's Day</i>	
2/21	1 st in Lent	Entering Lent (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/lent)	
2/28	2 nd in Lent	<i>Other curriculum</i>	GUC Parent Conversations: Taming Technology: Session 5 • PC190
3/7	3 rd in Lent		GUC Parent Conversations: Taming Technology: Session 6 • PC190
3/14	4 th in Lent		The Catholic Way: Catholic Social Teaching • CW243
3/21	5 th in Lent	Seeing Jesus: Social Justice Activities (https://pastoral.center/seeing-jesus-eresource) or other general Lenten activities	
3/28	Palm Sunday	<i>Other curriculum</i>	GUC Parent Learning Centers: How to Live by Catholic Social Teachings • XXFG104
4/4	Easter		GUC Parent Learning Centers: How to Meet & Walk with Jesus • XXFG104
4/11	2 nd in Easter	<i>No sessions: Easter Sunday</i>	
4/18	3 rd in Easter	<i>Other curriculum</i>	The Catholic Way: Jesus • CW228
4/25	4 th in Easter	The Good Shepherd (options at at https://planner.pastoral.center/calendars/2020/4/25)	
5/2	5 th in Easter	<i>Other curriculum</i>	Parental Love Is: The Joy of Love • MC100
5/9	6 th in Easter		

Sample Schedule: Weekly Whole Family

This schedule includes a whole family session (with parents and children side-by-side) every week.

	Sunday	Event
8/30	22 nd in OT	Start of the Catechetical Year (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/august)
9/6	23 rd in OT	<i>No sessions: Labor Day</i>
9/13	24 th in OT	Fall Service Activity (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/service)
9/20	25 th in OT	Scripture Basics (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/bible-basics)
9/27	26 th in OT	<p align="center">Caring for Creation (5th Anniversary Year of <i>Laudato Si'</i>) (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/creation)</p>
10/4	27 th in OT	
10/11	28 th in OT	
10/18	29 th in OT	Safe Environment/Loving Relationships (https://pastoral.center/life)
10/25	30 th in OT	The Mass (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/mass)
11/1	All Saints	<p align="center">Fall Learning Centers: All Saints/Beatitudes (https://pastoral.center/fall-learning-centers-for-whole-family-catechesis-eresource)</p>
11/8	32 nd in OT	Saints (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/saints)
11/15	33 rd in OT	Prayer (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/prayer)
11/22	Christ the King	<p>Preparing for Advent (We recommend this week, since Advent begins Thanksgiving weekend)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Coaching Parents for Advent</i> • PC301 (For 1st Sunday) ▶ <i>Children of the Light: Advent Wreath-Making Workshop & Prayers</i> • LR103
11/29	1 st in Advent	<p align="center">Advent (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/advent). Especially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ One of the <i>LearningCycles</i> Advent-themed topics ▶ One of the <i>Seasons by Step</i> series for Advent.
12/6	2 nd in Advent	
12/13	3 rd in Advent	
12/20	4 th in Advent	
12/27	Holy Family	<i>No sessions: Between Christmas and New Year's</i>
1/3	Epiphany	Epiphany/Holy Family (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/lectionary/entries/20 & https://planner.pastoral.center/lectionary/entries/17B)
1/10	Baptism of the Lord	The Baptism of the Lord (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/calendars/2020/1/12)

	Sunday	Event
1/17	2 nd in OT	Following Jesus (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/discipleship)
1/24	3 rd in OT	
1/31	4 th in OT	What Makes My Parish Special: Learning Cycles (https://pastoral.center/lc-what-makes-my-parish-special)
2/7	5 th in OT	St. Scholastica: Experience the Saints (https://pastoral.center/experience-the-saints)
2/14	6 th in OT	<i>No sessions: President's Day</i>
2/21	1 st in Lent	Entering Lent (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/lent)
2/28	2 nd in Lent	Seeing Jesus: Social Justice Activities (https://pastoral.center/seeing-jesus-eresource) or other general Lenten activities
3/7	3 rd in Lent	
3/14	4 th in Lent	
3/21	5 th in Lent	
3/28	Palm Sunday	The Passion (choose from options at https://planner.pastoral.center/lectionary/day/palm-sunday-of-the-passion-of-the-lord)
4/4	Easter	Easter Sunday (options at https://planner.pastoral.center/lectionary/entries/42)
4/11	2 nd in Easter	<i>No sessions: Easter Sunday</i>
4/18	3 rd in Easter	Easter Season (options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/easter-season)
4/25	4 th in Easter	The Good Shepherd (options at at https://planner.pastoral.center/calendars/2020/4/25)
5/2	5 th in Easter	Easter Season (options at https://planner.pastoral.center/topics/easter-season)
5/9	6 th in Easter	Mother's Day: Faithful Celebrations (see https://planner.pastoral.center/lectionary/day/mothers-day)

Your Schedule

Here is a blank schedule for you to fill in with your plans. Or type into the editable Microsoft Word version that is part of this resource.

	Sunday	Children	Parents
8/11	19 th in OT		
8/18	20 th in OT		
8/25	21 st in OT		
9/1	22 nd in OT		
9/8	23 rd in OT		
9/15	24 th in OT		
9/22	25 th in OT		
9/29	26 th in OT		
10/6	27 th in OT		
10/13	28 th in OT		
10/20	29 th in OT		
10/27	30 th in OT		
11/3	31 st in OT		
11/10	32 nd in OT		

	Sunday	Children	Parents
11/17	33 rd in OT		
11/24	Christ the King		
12/1	1 st in Advent		
12/8	2 nd in Advent		
12/15	3 rd in Advent		
12/22	4 th in Advent		
12/29	Holy Family		
1/5	Epiphany		
1/12	Baptism of the Lord		
1/19	2 nd in OT		
1/26	3 rd in OT		
2/2	Presentation of the Lord		
2/9	5 th in OT		
2/16	6 th in OT		
2/23	7 th in OT		
3/1	1 st in Lent		
3/8	2 nd in Lent		

	Sunday	Children	Parents
3/15	3 rd in Lent		
3/22	4 th in Lent		
3/29	5 th in Lent		
4/5	Palm Sunday		
4/12	Easter		
4/19	2 nd in Easter		
4/26	3 rd in Easter		
5/3	4 th in Easter		
5/10	5 th in Easter		
5/17	6 th in Easter		
5/24	Ascension/ 7 th in Easter		
5/31	Pentecost		
6/7	Holy Trinity		
6/14	Body & Blood		
6/21	12 th in OT		
6/28	13 th in OT		

Need to Talk This Through?

Introducing a whole family approach to your parish or school is not always easy. That's why we offer free, unlimited coaching by phone or email to support you.

We're happy to chat about your specific situation and help you with your approach. We're pastoral ministers ourselves, and we'd love to support you.

Just call us toll-free at 844-727-8672 or email at resources@pastoralcenter.com.