

**St. Basil the Great Parish
Department of Religious Education**

**OPTION 1 – TRADITIONAL HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM
2020-21 HOME-BASED CATECHESIS AGREEMENT**

This 2020-21 Home-Based Catechesis Agreement (this “Agreement”) is by and between St. Basil the Great Parish (“SBG”) and the parents/guardians set forth herein (collectively referred to herein as “we”, “our”, or “you”), and sets forth the terms and conditions by which the child/ren listed on the Home-Based Catechesis Registration Form attached hereto as *Attachment A* will be allowed to participate in SBG Home-Based Catechesis Program for the 2020-21 school year.

As a condition to our child/ren being allowed to participate in the SBG Home-Based Catechesis Program, we agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. We and/or our child/ren are registered parishioners of SBG. We will be educating our child/ren in our own home. We have reviewed, understand, and agree to all terms set forth in the Guidelines for Home-Based Catechesis for Children of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, which is attached hereto as *Attachment B*. We further understand and agree that in the matters set forth in those guidelines, the Pastor’s designee is the Director of Religious Education (“DRE”).

2. Members of SBG are part of a community of worshipers because we believe in the Mystical Body of Christ. As such, we will, and will ensure our child/ren will: (a) participate in the communal devotions that are scheduled for families in the Parish Religious Education Program (“PREP”); and (b) involve our child/ren in the life and mission of the Church as described in the attached Guidelines.

3. We understand that we will receive the appropriate curriculum materials needed to effectively instruct our child/ren at home. The materials provided are the same as or equivalent to the texts, supporting documents, and online resources that are in use within PREP and will be grade specific for each home-based catechesis student.

4. We agree to have our child/ren complete the chapter reviews and send the results to the DRE on a weekly basis in the manner and as instructed by the DRE. We will monitor and be responsible for all of our child/ren’s online activities and communications made in connection with this program.

5. We will ensure our child/ren memorize prayers appropriate for each grade level. Such prayers can be found at http://phillyocf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Traditional_Prayers_for_PREP1.pdf

6. We agree to complete all work required for my child/ren’s appropriate grade level (as determined by the DRE and discussed with us). We understand that if we have any questions regarding the curriculum materials, the requirements for the receipt of any sacraments, or any other matter involving PREP, it is our responsibility to contact the DRE to discuss these issues and resolve them.

7. We understand that home-based catechesis is generally not available for children during a sacramental preparation year (2nd grade and 7th grade), because it is better for children to receive instruction with their class/peers during such an important year. However, in cases of necessity, the DRE may, after consultation with the Pastor, allow a child to prepare for a sacrament via the SBG Home-Based Catechesis Program. In such cases, we understand and agree that: (a) it is our responsibility to obtain the dates and times for all parent meetings, practices, retreats, and events related to the reception of the sacrament and to attend, and/or cause our child/ren to attend, all such meetings, practices, retreats, and

events; and (b) our child/ren must come in for a short interview with the DRE to attest to readiness to receive the sacrament and if our child/ren has not demonstrated a reasonable level of understanding regarding the curriculum and the sacrament, the DRE may, after careful and thoughtful reflection and consultation with the Pastor, defer my child/ren's reception of the sacrament.

8. We understand that our child/ren may be evaluated (written test or oral review) with a mid-year assessment and final assessment as requested and required by the DRE.

9. We understand and agree that if the DRE determines that our child/ren has not successfully attained a reasonable level of understanding regarding the curriculum that he/she is studying, the DRE may recommend that the religious educational needs of the student may be better served in PREP at the grade level specified by the DRE at the then current program enrollment fee and/or require the child/ren to undergo additional instruction to attain such understanding.

10. We understand and agree that our failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement may, after thoughtful and careful reflection by the DRE in consultation with the Pastor, result in my child/ren's expulsion from the SBG Home-Based Catechesis Program and enrollment in PREP at the grade level specified by the DRE at the then current program enrollment fee.

11. We will review the Safe Environment Lesson Plan (which is grade appropriate and may be found at <https://chilyouthprotection.org/docs/Kid-Talk-complete-binder-11-22-19.pdf>) with our child/ren and return the required form (*see Attachment C – Safe Environment Form*) by the date listed on the form.

12. We understand that the tuition for the Home-Based Catechesis Program is \$160 for 1 child, \$275 for 2 children, and \$375 for 3 or more children. This tuition amount covers the materials and our administrative costs (e.g. materials costs, copying costs, office overhead, DRE time to monitor progress, additional record keeping, etc.). Home-Based Catechesis tuition fees are due by August 15, 2020. Please sign two copies. Keep one for your files and return one to the DRE.

I acknowledge and agree I am signing below on behalf of all Parents/Guardians:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

DRE Signature: _____ Date: _____

For DRE use only:

Chapter Reviews completed: _____ Mid-year Assessment: _____ Final Assessment: _____

This student has successfully completed the _____ grade religion curriculum.

Attachment A – Home-Based Catechesis Registration Form

For Office Use

Family Name: _____

Home Parish: _____

Date rec'd: _____

Fee: _____ Check #: _____ Online Payment: _____

St. Basil the Great Parish, Phoenixville
Option 1 -- 2020-21 Home-Based Catechesis Registration Form

Registration Period: May 21 to August 15

Family Tuition Rates: 1 child/\$160, 2 children/\$275, 3 or more children/\$375

Early Bird Special -- \$20 off registrations/tuition payments received on or before August 15th

For first time registrations, please provide all requested information and a copy of each child's Baptismal Certificate if not Baptized at St. Basil the Great Parish. For all other registrations, please complete first 5 columns (shaded in gray) ONLY.

Child's Full Name (First, Middle, & Last)	M/F	Date of Birth	Last PREP Level Completed	Name of School Attending and Grade in 2019-20	Baptism Date & Parish	1 st Penance Date & Parish	1 st Communion Date & Parish

Family Name: _____ Home Phone #: _____ Home Parish: _____

Address: _____
Street City Zip Code Email(s): _____

Father's Name: _____ Cell Phone #: _____ Religion: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Cell Phone #: _____ Religion: _____

CUSTODY: Are there any custody/legal issues? ___yes ___no (If yes, please provide a complete copy of the latest court order.)

*Name of person responsible for Religious Education if not a Parent/Guardian: _____ Relationship: _____

*Parent/guardian must provide a signed, dated letter of permission to the DRE which is to be kept on file and updated annually.

- I met/spoke with the DRE to discuss my wish to provide religious instruction for my child/ren in my own home.
- I understand and agree to all program requirements and expectations of the Home-Based Catechesis Program as outlined/provided by the DRE.
- I give permission for my child's name and/or picture to appear on the parish website, parish and Department of Religious Education Facebook pages, bulletin boards, bulletins, sacramental programs, and other similar/related media in relation to events that happen in the parish.

Family Name:

St. Basil the Great Parish, Phoenixville

Option 1 -- 2020-21 Home-Based Catechesis Registration Form

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

Since your child/ren is expected to attend classes/activities associated with the PREP/Sacramental Preparation programs, please provide the following information:

Health Insurance Co: _____ Policy/Group No: _____

Person Responsible for Charges: _____ Physician's Name: _____ Physician's Phone #: _____

If we are unable to reach you, whom should we contact?

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone #: _____

CONSENT FOR MEDICAL CARE:

I give permission that, in my absence, my child/ren whose names appear on page 1 of this Registration Form, may receive emergency medical care for injuries and all situations that should occur while participating in the PREP/Sacramental Preparation programs and related events and activities. I accept responsibility for all medical expenses arising out of my child's participation in PREP/Sacramental Preparation programs and related events and activities.

Signed (Parent/Legal Guardian): _____ Date: _____

MEDICAL/LEARNING DATA:

If any of the following apply to your child, please list his/her name and give details in the appropriate spaces.

Child's Name	Medical Conditions/Allergies	Prescribed Medications	Disability/ Learning Support Services/Other Special Needs	G/IEP or 504
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

If you answered "Yes" to G/IEP or 504 Service Agreement, then please also complete and attach a detailed Child Information Form (available from the DRE).

Family Name:

St. Basil the Great Parish, Phoenixville
Option 1 -- 2020-21 Home-Based Catechesis Registration Form

Is there other information about your child/ren that we should know?

WAIVER OF LIABILITY:

In consideration for my child/ren being allowed to participate in PREP/Sacramental Preparation programs and related events and activities, I, as the parent/guardian with legal responsibility for my child/ren, freely and voluntarily do consent and agree, on behalf of myself, my child/ren, my spouse, our heirs, executors, next of kin, legal representatives, assigns, and any other person or entity who can bring claims on behalf of me, my child/ren and/or any other such person, to hereby waive, release, indemnify, hold harmless, and forever fully discharge the Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D., Archbishop of Philadelphia and his successors, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the parishes therein (and their pastors both in their individual capacity and in their capacity as pastors) including, without limitation, St. Basil the Great Parish and its Pastor, both in his individual capacity and his capacity as pastor, and religious institutions and other agencies, whether or not incorporated, which may have been set up to carry out programs on behalf of the Archdiocese or its parishes or both, and any and all subsidiary entities, and all employees, independent contractors, and volunteers while performing services for all of the foregoing (collectively, the “Releasees”) from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, losses, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys’ fees, court costs, and costs of appeals) whatsoever, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, arising out of or connected in any way with my child/ren’s participation in the PREP/Sacramental Preparation Programs and related events and activities, to the fullest extent provided by law.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Relationship to Child/ren: _____

Attachment B – Guidelines for Home-Based Catechesis of Children in Archdiocese of Philadelphia

GUIDELINES FOR HOME-BASED CATECHESIS OF CHILDREN ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

I. HOME-BASED CATECHESIS

“Catechesis describes the essential ministry of the Church through which the teachings of Christ have been passed on to believers throughout the ages....Catechesis is an education in the faith of children, young people and adults.” (*National Directory for Catechesis*, no.1) Home-based catechesis is understood as the work of Catholic parents/guardians who undertake the formal religious education of **their own** child(ren) for any length of time and in **their** home.

II. DOCTRINAL FOUNDATIONS

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia recognizes that the Church’s teaching consistently affirms that parents are called to be the primary educators of **their own** children.

- “Since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring. Hence, parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children.” (Second Vatican Council, *Declaration on Christian Education*, no. 3)
- “Parents have the first responsibility of the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2223)
- “Parents are the first and most important educators of their own children.” (John Paul II, *Letter to Families*, 16)
- “Parents have the right and the duty to choose the kind of educational environment that they determine best suits their children’s educational need. Therefore, home schooling is a viable option for the general education of children.” (*National Directory for Catechesis*, no.61)

III. PASTORAL APPLICATION

Although home-based catechesis is a viable option, the words of Pope John Paul II must also be considered: “Catechesis can be given anywhere, but I wish to stress ... that the parish community must continue to be the prime mover.” (*Catechesi Tradendae*, no.67)

Parents who choose to provide the religious instruction of **their own** child(ren) in **their** home must recognize that “Catechesis must be complete and authentic. The bishop of the diocese, the pastor of the parish, the parents, and the children all have God-given responsibilities that must be respected in considering home-based catechesis....Parents who choose...to be the primary catechist of their children must adhere to the guidelines for catechists as outlined by the diocesan bishop.” (*National Directory for Catechesis*, no.61)

Home-based catechesis is a cooperative and collaborative effort between the parents and parish leadership. This relationship helps parents who choose home-based catechesis to be a part of the total catechetical effort of the parish and “should not feel alone in this task.”(*National Directory for Catechesis*, no. 61)

Categories of a Catholic family who chooses home-based catechesis are:

1. Parents who choose to have **their own** child(ren) home-schooled for all academic subjects and choose to provide formal religious education in **their own** home, assuming the role of catechist for only **their own** child(ren).
2. Parents who send their child(ren) to public or private non-Catholic school and provide formal religious education in **their own** home, assuming the role of catechist for only their own child(ren).

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia does not recognize home-based catechesis of children in a home other than **their own**, and therefore, does not permit groups of children gathering for catechesis other than at the parish.

IV. PARISH GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are provided to assist parishes in ministering to families who choose home-based catechesis:

1. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will register in their parish and declare their option for home-based catechesis for **their own** child(ren). The names of the children under instruction must be clearly identified. (*See Appendix A.*)
2. Before the home-based catechesis begins, the parent(s)/guardian(s) are to meet with the pastor and/or his delegate to discuss the reasons for this decision and to ensure that the catechesis provided in the home is the catechesis of the Church. This dialogue is essential to the complete and authentic catechesis of **their own** children in **their** homes.
3. The pastor or his delegate will provide the parents with a copy of the Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guidelines for the grade level(s), approved textbooks, and a set of expectations which include:
 - Meetings throughout the year with the pastor or his delegate to review the child's progress.
 - Liturgies, prayer services, activities, retreats, programs, meetings or other parish opportunities in which the child and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) attendance is expected.
4. Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to use the textbooks and supplemental catechetical materials which have been approved by the pastor for use in the Parish Religious Education Program.
5. Should the parent/guardian seek permission for use of another text which is not included on the approved textbook list, a copy must be provided to the pastor or his delegate for review. All materials must be approved by the Office for Catechetical Formation.
6. Families providing home-based catechesis should be included in any informational mailings pertaining to the parish religious education program and/or the preparation and celebration of the sacraments. They are to be welcomed in all parish catechetical program activities.
7. Since their children are being initiated into the Catholic Church, parent(s)/guardian(s) have an obligation to involve their children in the life and mission of the Church. They should participate in:
 - the spiritual life of the parish, particularly in the Sunday Eucharist.
 - the charitable works of the parish.
 - the catechetical and faith formation opportunities on the parish and archdiocesan levels.
8. The Catechetical Certification Policy of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia fosters the professional development and the spiritual, intellectual, and human formation of volunteer catechists by requiring them to:
 - enroll in core courses provided by the Catechetical Institute
 - attend elective credit opportunities offered by the Office for Catechetical Formation.

Pastors should provide a copy of the Catechetical Certification Policy to parents/guardians who serve as catechists for their child(ren) and recommend their adherence to this policy.

Approved by
Archbishop Charles Chaput
May 31, 2012

Attachment C -- Safe Environment Form

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Article 12 calls for all dioceses to establish “safe environment” programs at all grade levels in the Parish Religious Education Program. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia provides a Safe Environment lesson for Parish Religious Education Program catechists and mandates that this lesson be taught during one session of the instructional year. The Safe Environment lessons are intended to supplement the conversations that you are having with your children about their personal safety. We recommend that Home-Based Catechesis Program parents review the Safe Environment lessons with their child/ren at home. Please call the DRE with any questions or concerns.

Please review the grade appropriate lesson plan and **return this form to the DRE by January 31, 2021.**
<https://chilyouthprotection.org/docs/Kid-Talk-complete-binder-11-22-19.pdf>

Please return the completed form to the DRE by scanning and emailing it to dre@stbasils.org or mailing it to the address listed below:

St. Basil the Great Parish
Attn: Director of Religious Education
2330 Kimberton Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Sincerely,
Rev. Gary T. Pacitti, Pastor

AS PART OF THE PREP HOME-BASED CATECHESIS GUIDELINES FOR ST. BASIL THE GREAT PARISH I HAVE REVIEWED THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT LESSON WITH MY CHILD/REN.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Name of Child / Level(s) _____

Name of Child / Level(s) _____

Name of Child / Level(s) _____

Name of Child / Level(s) _____