

Expectations of Parents of Youth Catechumens

- (1) Pray for your child's catechesis. Ask the Lord to bless His Word as it's taught to your child, and for your child to "gladly hear and learn it."
- (2) Help your child daily to read and do assigned catechesis work and to learn Catechism and assigned Bible passages by heart. Expect to spend at least 15 minutes per day *with your child*.
- (3) Have family devotions every day. A good, free, and accessible resource is *Portals of Prayer* (available in narthex). There are also wonderful family devotional services in *LSB* (e.g., p. 298).
- (4) Bring your child on time and every week to Wednesday evening catechesis at Sound Words Academy. Allow your child to stay the entire time through the evening service (the latter is actually part of the catechesis program) and, if possible, for hour beginning at 5:00 p.m. for Rhythm of Faith (they can eat between 5:40 and 5:55). If your child is sick, please let the church office know (354.7132).
- (5) Bring your child every week to the Sunday divine service. There, encourage full participation in the liturgy (paying attention during the liturgy, singing the liturgy and hymns) and close attention to the sermon. Discuss the sermon on the way home.
- (6) Bring your child every week to Sunday School. Sunday School for 6th-8th graders (all in youth catechesis) is now pointedly aimed toward achieving both catechetical and Sunday School goals. Your child will benefit greatly from being there. When your child's in Sunday School, join one of the adult Bible studies. This not only helps you continue to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, but also sets a positive example of the importance of the Word of God for your child.
- (7) Help your child with the sermon review forms. Don't do it for your child, but guide him or her. You can listen to the sermon again during the week on the Sermons link on the St. John's website (**Worship > Sermons**), where you can also find the week's sermon in written form.
- (8) Back up the catechists. Good catechesis is rigorous, but not impossible. Our classes have been designed to give your children the best Christian instruction we can in the time allotted. Help us hold them to the high standards we have for their learning.
- (9) We encourage you to join your catechumen/s in class. Please join! This will help you help your children, help us manage the classroom, set a good example for your child, refresh in your own mind the same things you've learned in catechesis, and provide help for the catechists in listening to recitations. If you don't join their class, please do take advantage of one of the adult offerings at Sound Words Academy. This sets a positive example.
- (10) Come early enough to join in dinner with others attending Sound Words. Dinner starts at 5:00, and is supported by a free-will offering. Each meal will cost us roughly \$5/plate.
- (11) Help with the winter Youth Catechesis lock-in retreat. We have many jobs that need to be done, including chaperones throughout the night, folks to help with activities and food. This is a wonderful time for our catechumens to learn a great deal in a short while, have a lot of fun, and meet kids from other congregations. *But we cannot pull it off without much help.*
- (12) Help with the Youth Confirmation Examination dinner. Each year, parents of younger catechumens host the examination dinner for the families of confirmands. This always falls on the Friday before the first Sunday in May.