

“The model of all catechesis is the baptismal catechumenate.... This catechumenal formation should inspire the other forms of catechesis in both their objectives and in their dynamism.”

—*General Directory for Catechesis, 59*

Since the catechumenal model draws from the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist and the Word of God proclaimed there, this is practically an endorsement for the liturgical catechesis approach of the *Gospel Weeklies*—for use in both the initiation process for children of catechetical age and regular faith formation in parishes and Catholic schools.

“The initiation of catechumens is a gradual process that takes place *within the community of the faithful*” (RCIA, 4, emphasis added). The Sunday Eucharist is the most significant regular gathering of this community. The Sunday readings, particularly the Gospels, are our weekly love letters from God through which we receive regular guidance in how to live the Catholic faith.

Children in the catechumenal process learn about the prayers, beliefs, and life of the community in a most significant way through full participation in the Liturgy of the Word at the Sunday Eucharist. The *Gospel Weeklies* build every lesson on the Sunday Gospels and so provide a seamless integration of a child’s experience at Mass with their faith formation sessions.

The fluctuating date of Easter requires some yearly adjustment of the schedule for every RCIA process. Since the *Gospel Weeklies* follow the *current year’s* Lectionary cycle, the natural flow of the lessons is not affected by the changing date of Easter. Other RCIA resources for children are unable to make this claim.

When using the *Gospel Weeklies* within a catechumenal process for children preparing for Easter baptism, the Cycle A lessons are needed for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent to coincide with Gospels proclaimed for the Scrutinies. Pflaum provides these three Cycle A lessons for *Promise, Good News, Venture, and Visions* online to be substituted as needed for Cycle B and C lessons. Visit gospelweeklies.com/pacingplans for these Cycle A lessons.



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