



GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study

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A Best Practice: Take-Home Kits

During the COVID pandemic, take-home kits became popular. Parishes would prepare kits – usually on a given theme – with all the directions and materials needed for a family to learn together.

They continue today in many forms. Often, take-home kits are ready-to-use packages that learners bring home from their faith formation setting to continue learning with their families. They typically include:

- Session summaries tied to what was explored that week
- Activities or projects related to the theme
- Discussion prompts or guiding questions for family conversations
- Memory verses or Scripture readings
- Sometimes all the needed supplies for hands-on projects or prayer

These kits extend what is shared in the parish setting into family life, encouraging ongoing discipleship and faith-filled moments throughout the week.

You might want to revisit [GEMS #108](#) for some examples of take-home kits.



Christina Zettek, Director of Religious Education, Parish Communications and a lead member on the parish's Teen Youth Ministry at Immaculate Conception Parish in Morris, IL, shares her recent experience:

"In the past, kits were prepared ahead of time for our parishioners by our previous DRE but since I didn't have enough time to prepare them, the Holy Spirit inspired a wonderful alternative. Instead of not offering them at all, I set up a table where parishioners could create their own kits."



These materials were available for the families (and all parishioners):

- a pamphlet with home blessing instructions
- holy water
- blessed chalk

This easy to spot and easily acceptable display was available in the parish narthex after the weekend Masses (5:00 pm on Saturday; 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 2:00 pm {Spanish} on Sunday. The pamphlets were also available in Spanish.

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The pamphlet of prayer and directions included the Epiphany Home Blessing Ceremony:

- Prayer
- Scripture reading
- Home blessing which includes the writing of the letters C, M, and B and the numbers of the year on either side (20+C+M+B+26). The letters stand for the traditional names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. They also represent the Latin blessing “Christus mansionem benedicat,” which means “May Christ bless this house.”



- Song
- Prayers for blessing each room of the home (if families desired to do this)

Prayers for each room

In the living room: O God, give your blessings to all who share this room that we may be knit together in companionship.

All: Amen.

In the kitchen: O God, you fill the hungry with good things. Send your blessing on us as we work in this kitchen, and make us ever thankful for our daily bread.

All: Amen.

In the dining room: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad. Help us to be grateful for all your mercies and mindful of the needs of others.

All: Amen.

In the bedrooms: Protect us Lord as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake we may keep watch with Christ and asleep, we may rest in his peace.

All: Amen.

As families – and all parishioners – assembled their own Epiphany Kit, Christina needed to replenish the materials 3 times!



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Sources for Take-Home Kits

Many parishes **assemble their own kits** and/or – as Christina did: providing all the resources and inviting the parishioners to assemble them. Religious resource stores (online or local) often have posters, activity kits, or seasonal crafts that can be used as take-home materials. Some possible resources:

- Catholic Printable Club: A subscription-based source of liturgical living printables for children and families—featuring feast day activities, crafts, and liturgical season resources that fit well into take-home kits. <https://catholicprintableclub.com/?utm>
- Just a Catholic Mom – Free Printables
A blog with free prayer cards, games, bookmarks, and activities that you can print and include in kits. These are good for children and family prayer resources.
<https://www.justacatholicmom.com/games-printables-prayers-art?utm>
- Arma Dei / Cathletics Craft Kits
PDF craft kits that focus on saints, sacraments, and other Catholic themes. These include coloring templates, activity instructions, and mini projects that fit perfectly into take-home packets for kids or family engagement.
<https://www.armadei.com/category/catholic-craft-kits/?utm>
- Growing Up Catholic – Send-Home Resources
Downloadable handouts designed to send home with families after class or parish events. Includes:
 - Reflection pages based on the Sunday Gospel.
 - Conversation starters for cars or dinner time.
 - Reproducible leaflets tied to seasons and sacraments.<https://leaders.growingupcatholic.com/resources/send-home/?utm>
- Catholic Icing Printables & Craft Packs
Monthly printables and craft ideas tied to saints and liturgical seasons. These are especially great if you want seasonal take-home faith packets or liturgical projects.
<https://www.reallifeathome.com/catholic-icing-monthly-membership/?utm>

- The Mass Box Resources: A site offering lots of free downloadable printables and craft ideas tied to the Mass and liturgical year—perfect for take-home faith formation and kids’ engagement with the weekly gospel. <https://themassbox.com/resources?utm>

Ideas include:

- Craft templates
- Activity booklets
- Catechesis printables tied to the Sunday readings

There are also numerous organizations and publishing companies that provide **ready-made kits**.

- Many diocesan faith formation offices offer downloadable take-home kits or family catechesis worksheets tied to Sunday readings or liturgical seasons (e.g., Loyola Press Take-Home Kits with labels and prayer handouts).
<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/parish-ministry/intergenerational-catechesis/mary/mary-intergenerational-event-presentation-take-home/>
- Loyola Press offers ready-to-assemble take-home kits that include printable handouts, family activities, and labels - great for distributing after parish events or during sacramental seasons. They have collections like “Saints by Our Side” and Mary: The Yes That Changed the World, each with downloadable materials you can print and include in envelopes or folders.
<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/parish-ministry/intergenerational-catechesis/saints/saints-event-presentation-and-take-home-kit/?utm>

Materials typically include:

- Handouts about the saint or theme
- Family activities and reflection pages
- Avery label sheets for kit organization

- The Growing Up Catholic project provides lectionary-based Mass transit cards and saint booklets that are inexpensive or printable for families.
<https://www.growingupcatholic.com/take-home-resources.html?utm>

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- Family Formation Home Lessons
Professional home lesson packets (print-your-own or shipped) for parish distribution. These include structured lessons, activities, and family engagement materials that are ideal for take-home kits for various age groups.
<https://www.familyformation.net/collections/2025-2026/home-lessons/?utm>
- Sadlier's summer kits include family prayer and activity guides to keep faith active outside the classroom.
<https://www.sadlier.com/religion/families-summer-support?utm>
- Services like Catholic Family Crate offer monthly faith boxes with themed activities, saint studies, and feast day resources — ideal for ongoing take-home enrichment.
<https://catholicfamilycrate.com/products/6-month-pre-paid-subscription?utm>

Ideas for Kit Components

- Printable prayer cards (e.g., morning prayer, night prayer, saint prayer)
- Short family activity pages (saint research, scripture reflection)
- Liturgical calendar or feast day reminders
- Project supplies/templates (cross bookmarks, saint figures, Mass parts)
- Reflection sheets related to upcoming Sunday readings
- Family challenge cards (e.g., "Practice the Corporal Works of Mercy this week!")

How Kits Are Usually Used At Home

Families use the kits throughout the week for:

- Daily devotionals or prayer time
- Faith conversations over dinner or car rides
- Projects that illustrate biblical concepts
- Memory work and Scripture reflection

Tips for Choosing the Right Kit

- Age-appropriate: Choose materials designed for the children's age or developmental level.
- Interactive elements: Kits with activities, crafts, or discussion questions tend to be more engaging.
- Ease of use: If you're not a trained teacher, look for "no-prep" kits with everything included.

Tips for Using Take-Home Kits in Catholic RE

- Align with Liturgical Seasons
Use take-home materials that match the Church calendar - Advent, Lent, Easter, saint feast days — to deepen seasonal awareness.
- Include Family Discussion Prompts
Pair projects or activities with questions for parents and children to reflect on the week's Gospel or virtue theme.
- Combine with Parish Catechesis
Kits work best when they reinforce what's taught at in catechetical sessions, helping families extend faith formation into daily life.



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