

# SAINT JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Religious Education Guidebook 2019-2020

Religious Education Programs and Policies  
for Adults, Youth, and Children

*Our Mission: To Evangelize God's people, beginning with the gift of the Holy Eucharist.*

See [stjmod.com/religious-education-guidebook.html](http://stjmod.com/religious-education-guidebook.html) for the current guidebook.

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# CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Stay Connected!

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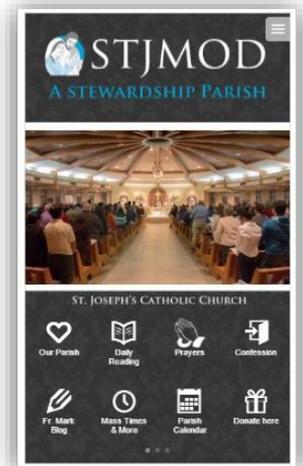
Parish Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjmod](http://www.facebook.com/stjmod)

Religious Ed. Facebook: [www.facebook.com/STJMODRE](http://www.facebook.com/STJMODRE)

Parish School of Religion Facebook: [www.facebook.com/STJPSR](http://www.facebook.com/STJPSR)

Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjmodrcia](http://www.facebook.com/stjmodrcia)

REMIND App ([remind.com/join](http://remind.com/join) or text department code to 81010)



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OVERVIEW

Religious Education is an extremely important part of ongoing faith formation. At St. Joseph's, we share a goal: to support the Parish's mission *to evangelize God's people beginning with the gift of the Holy Eucharist* through faithful catechesis, sacramental preparation, stewardship exemplification, and moral formation. To this end, we strive to provide quality, orthodox Mass celebrations and catechesis to all members of the parish. This guidebook contains information about the numerous educational programs we offer.

## Holy Mass



The first and most important religious formation received at St. Joseph's is offered at Sunday Mass. Holy Mass is the primary means of supporting the faith of Church members, where we come together as the People of God to receive grace as we are nourished by hearing the Word of God written in Sacred Scripture, and receive the Word of God made flesh in Holy Communion. Regular Confession is another important practice for the entire family because it is only through forgiveness that we can have lasting peace with God and, as a result, peace in our homes. Further, St. Joseph's highly encourages time spent in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in reverent silence for meditation on Sacred Scripture and prayer.

### Mass Times:

**Sunday:** 7:30am, 9:00am (*Traditional Latin Form*), 10:30am, 12:00 Noon, 1:30pm (*Spanish*), 5:30pm, 7:30pm

**Monday–Thursday:** 8:00am, 5:45pm

**Friday:** 8:00 am, 12:00 pm (*Traditional Latin Form*), 5:45 pm

**Saturday:** 8:00am, 5:30pm (*Vigil*)

### Confession Times:

**Monday–Thursday:** 5:00pm-5:30pm

**Friday:** 6:30pm-7:30pm

**Saturday:** 8:30-9:30am, 4:00-5:00pm

### Adoration Times:

**Sunday–Saturday:** 24 hrs/day with occasional exceptions.  
(*Visit our Parish Office for chapel admittance.*)

# Faith Formation



Ongoing faith formation helps Catholics to grow in their understanding of God’s revelation and to increase the quality of their relationship with God. St. Joseph’s provides continuous opportunities for faith formation through various forms of catechesis<sup>1</sup> for children (ages 4-12), teens (ages 13-17), and adults (ages 18+). Our children and youth programs are typically distinguished by grade level and follow age-appropriate curriculum and catechetical style. Sacrament preparation is available for all allowable ages, but concentrated during typical sacrament reception years.

Designation	Children		Youth			Adult
	Grades	P-K	1st - 6th	7th	8th	9th - 12th
Age Range	4 - 6	6-12	12-13	13-14	15-17	18+
Schedule	T-Th 3:34 - 5:15	T-Th 3:34 - 5:15	Wed. 5:45 - 7:15	Wed. 7:00 - 8:30	Sun. 7:00 - 8:30	Varies
					Mon. 7:00-8:30	
Format	Classes	Classes	Classes	Group	Group / Class	Groups / Classes
Typical Sacraments	Baptism	Confession Communion		Confirmation		Initiation Confirmation Marriage

<sup>1</sup> The word *catechesis* comes from two Greek terms meaning "down" and "sound" and forms of the word are used often in the Catholic Church:

- **Catechesis:** the teaching of the faith
- **Catechetical:** having to do with catechesis
- **Catechism:** the content of the faith written in a book (and classes that teach the faith)
- **Catechist:** a teacher of the faith
- **Catechumenate:** the educational program for non-Catholics who wish to enter into the faith (i.e., Christian Initiation)
- **Catechumen:** a non-Christian who is learning the faith in order to convert to Catholicism (also used to designate one who has gone through the “Rite of Acceptance” during Christian Initiation).

# Child and Youth Protection

## Safe Environment Program Protocol

St. Joseph's follows all procedures mandated by the Stockton diocese.<sup>2</sup>

As mandated or ethical reporters of child abuse, all clergy, employees and volunteers, before working unsupervised with children, will be required to complete the following:

- Complete the Live Scan process which includes fingerprinting and background check and receive a clearance from the Safe Environment Training Manager's Office BEFORE volunteering/working with children/youth.
- Complete the Virtus online training course "Protecting God's Children" and present a certificate of completion to the parish Safe Environment Coordinator.
  - Included in the online training is a condensed version of the Diocese of Stockton Pastoral Code of Conduct and the Standards of Conduct for Those Working with Children and Young People, which needs to be reviewed before being able to complete the course
  - All policies, procedures and Codes of Conduct are outlined in detail on the Diocesan website
- All volunteers should read and sign the Pastoral Code of Conduct as well as the Diocese of Stockton's Standards of Conduct
- All Clergy is required to review and sign the Pastoral Code of Conduct and the Diocese of Stockton's Standards of Conduct.

All children and youth attending parochial schools within the Diocese of Stockton, ages K-8, and 9-12 (high school), and also all children and youth attending religious education classes within the Diocese of Stockton are required to receive the Safe Environment safety CIRCLE OF GRACE CURRICULUM every year.

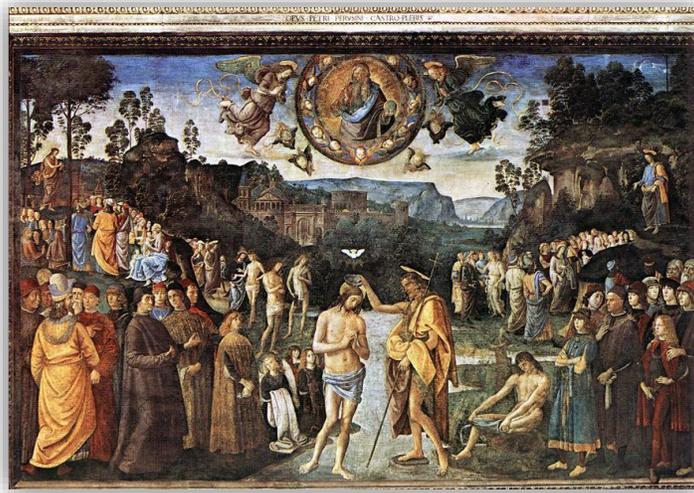
## How To Report Claims To The Diocese

To make a complaint of sexual abuse against anyone acting in the name of the Catholic Church, you may do so in writing or by telephone. Whether the abuse was recent or occurred many years in the past, call our Victim Assistance Hotline at (855) 566-7262 or contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator at (209) 466-0636. Send written complaints to 212 N San Joaquin Street, Stockton, CA 95202, marked "Confidential" and directed to the attention of the Victim Assistance Coordinator. Should a survivor wish to share their story with the Bishop, requests for a private conference are to be made by contacting the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Connie Jacob: <https://stocktondiocese.org/contact-connie-jacob/>.

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<sup>2</sup> All information can be found at <https://stocktondiocese.org/diocesan-departments/protecting-our-children/>.

# SACRAMENT PREPARATION AND RECEPTION



## Sacramental Reception Ages / Grades

Sacrament reception involves different preparation depending on one's age and life situation. These follow from Canon Law, the norms and guidelines of the Diocese as set by our Bishop, and parish-level variations made by our Pastor.

Once the age of reason (7 y.o.) is reached, a minimum of two years of religious education is mandated by the diocese to begin sacrament reception. Assuming regular religious education enrollment, the usual sacramental reception years for children at St. Joseph's parish are as follows:

- Baptism is to be received in the first week of life for Catholic families. (After the age of 7 is reached, the child will participate in the Rite of Initiation.)
- Confession (*Reconciliation*) is usually first received in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade.
- Communion is usually first received in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade.
- Confirmation is usually received in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.

## Parental Faith Formation Requirements

As primary educators of their children, parents are what make the home the first and best place for children to become well prepared to receive the sacraments. The example and advice of parents, along with their prayers and love, are what really motivate children to be ready to receive sacraments.

Per diocese and parish policies, parents / guardians and sponsors are expected to be engaged in various faith formation activities and events appropriate to their roles and the sacrament being received (e.g., special classes, retreats, conferences, etc.). In order to help facilitate this component of sacramental preparation, St. Joseph's offers numerous adult faith formation opportunities in various formats suited to different schedules. Formation requirements can also be met through other approved parishes or ministries. See sacrament information below for details.

# Baptism



Baptism is the first of the three sacraments of Christian Initiation (the other two being communion and Confirmation). In the waters of Baptism, original sin is remitted and we become members of the Body of Christ - God's People, configured to Jesus Christ the High Priest to share in his prophetic, kingly, and priestly mission. In a way similar to how Israelite babies were brought into the Old Covenant community via circumcision, Christian babies are baptized into the New Covenant community (Colossians 2:11-12). Children aged 7 and older will receive Baptism as well as the other sacraments of Christian Initiation after going through the Rite of Christian Initiation (see the *Christian Initiation* sections below).

Before the celebration of Baptism, the Church requires parents and sponsors to be formed in the meaning of the sacrament as well as its responsibilities (*Canon 851*). St. Joseph's offers preparation sessions on various weeknights and Saturday mornings. Pre-registration is necessary to attend. Families desiring to have a child baptized at St. Joseph's can pick up an information packet and Baptism application from the parish office. These are to be completed by the parents and the Sponsor/Godparent Forms signed in the sponsor's own parish. As soon as the paperwork is completed take it to the parish office, a date may be reserved for the Baptism in the parish office.

In addition to faithful Sunday Mass attendance including Holy Days of Obligation, the faith formation requirements for a child's Baptism are typically met by parents / guardians / sponsors attending a half-day class on the sacrament, or its equivalent as specified by the parish.

*For those 7 years of age or older, see "Becoming Catholic: Christian Initiation" for adults, youth, or children below.*

## BAPTISM FAQ

### **Why does the Church baptize infants?**

It has always been the practice of the Church to baptize infants. From the earliest days, when an adult was baptized so was everyone else in that person's household (see Acts 10). The Catholic Church recognizes that infants cannot make their own profession of faith, so infants are baptized on the faith of the Church and there must "be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion; if such a hope is altogether lacking, the Baptism is to be put off" (Canon 868 1.1).

### **Where and when is Baptism celebrated?**

Infant Baptism is properly celebrated in the parish of the parents. If, for a just cause, another church is desirable, the permission of the home parish priest is needed. Sunday is the day the Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Baptism, which is the dying and rising of the infant into the Pascal Mystery of Jesus, is most fittingly celebrated on this day, although Baptism may be celebrated on other days of the week (Code of Canon Law #856). St. Joseph's celebrates infant Baptism at 3:00pm on Sundays following the Baptism preparations sessions. As Baptism signifies the child's entrance into the Christian community, several children are normally baptized in one celebration.

### **Who is considered for Baptism?**

The Church considers anyone who has not yet completed their seventh year to be an infant. Therefore, the parents of children under the age of seven may request Baptism and attend the parish's infant Baptism preparation session. For those children who are over seven years of age the Church requires that they make a profession of faith. Therefore it is necessary that they themselves be prepared for the Sacraments of Initiation (a minimum of two years in faith formation classes).

### **What is the role of the Sponsors/Godparents?**

The role of the sponsor or Godparent is, "together with the parents, to present an infant at Baptism, and help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with Baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it." (Canon 872) In the beginning of the Rite of Baptism of Children, the Godparents are asked if they are willing to help the parents of the one baptized in their duties as Christian parents. Thus, the function of the Godparents is not merely ceremonial or social but to assist the parents in raising their child in the practice of the faith.

### **Who may serve as a Sponsor or Godparent?**

The Church has established the following norms governing the qualifications needed to be a sponsor or Godparent. Sponsorship is limited to one Godfather and/or one Godmother (Code of Canon Law #873), but additional persons may be witnesses. According to the Code of Canon Law (874), the sponsor must:

- be at least sixteen (16) years old
- be a Catholic who has been Confirmed and received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist
- leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken\*
- not be bound by any canonical penalty
- not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

*\*Sponsors must be faithful Catholics (e.g., who regularly attend Sunday Mass, are married according to the norms of the Catholic Church if married, and striving to deepen their relationship with God through Jesus). Further, Godparents / Sponsors should be sufficiently mature with strong and continuing influence throughout the child's life.*

For adults being baptized, sponsors should not be romantically involved with them.

Sponsors must also:

- Complete the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Sponsor Form
- Turn in any required certificates (these require the signature of the pastor where they attend as well as the church seal of their parish).
- Participate in any required sponsor workshops / retreats.
- Attend the Confirmation Mass rehearsal and Confirmation Mass or have a stand-in selected by the candidate.

# Confession



The sacrament of Confession (aka penance / Reconciliation) is one of the most unique and beautiful aspects of Catholicism. Jesus Christ, in His abundant love and mercy, established the sacrament of Confession, so that we as sinners can obtain forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with God and the Church. The sacrament “washes us clean,” and renews us in Christ. Penance services are provided throughout the year to facilitate ongoing sacrament reception as well.

Reconciliation is typically practiced after the child reaches the age of reason and is in the second year of religious education (usually 2<sup>nd</sup> grade).

The guidelines for the child’s first Reconciliation will be communicated when the child is enrolled in the Parish School of Religion.

Children can prepare for Confession by first examining their consciences and noting their sins. When going to Confession, they may enter the Confessional either face-to-face or behind the curtain. They should be prepared to:

- Make the sign of the cross with the priest, then say, “Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It has been (time) since my last Confession. These are my sins.”
- List sins by type and number, then say, “I am sorry for these and all my sins.”
- Listen to what the priest tells you and what your penance is.
- Say, the “Act of Contrition” when the priest tells you (see *Prayers* below).
- Make the sign of the cross as he says, “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
- Do the penance the priest assigns, and remember to thank Jesus for forgiving your sins.

In addition to faithful Sunday Mass attendance including Holy Days of Obligation, the faith formation requirements for first Reconciliation are typically met by parents / guardians / children attending ongoing faith formation classes / retreats / conferences or equivalent religious education experience (generally about 10 hours) as specified by the parish (contact the Coordinator of Children’s Catechesis for details).

## Communion



The sacrament of communion is offered at every Mass, and is typically first received in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. Preparation for first Holy Communion takes place during standard Catechism school year under various forms. Special Masses offered throughout the school year facilitate its ongoing reception as well.

During the school year, students will review and practice the basic elements of participation in Mass such as entering and exiting the Church and pews, approaching the altar, genuflecting and other positions (when to sit, stand, kneel and bow). They will learn and practice how to prepare for communion concerning their interior and exterior dispositions, then how to receive Holy Communion properly. All are encouraged to receive the body of Christ by mouth as is the recommendation from our pastor. Fasting is refraining from eating or drinking one hour before Mass. We ask adults to describe and model fasting for children preparing to receive first Holy Communion.

Per diocese regulations, this is a two year process that usually begins no earlier than 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade.

The guidelines for the child's first Holy Communion will be communicated when the child is enrolled in the Parish School of Religion.

In addition to faithful Sunday Mass attendance including Holy Days of Obligation, the faith formation requirements for first Holy Communion are typically met by parents / guardians / sponsors / children attending ongoing faith formation classes / retreats / conferences or equivalent religious education experience (generally about 10 hours) as specified by the parish (contact the Coordinator of Children's Catechesis for details).

## Confirmation



The celebration of this sacrament completes the Christian Initiation process begun at Baptism. Confirmation continues the promise made by parents at the Baptism on behalf of their son or daughter. Parents were told on that occasion to make it their constant care to bring up their child in the practice of faith. The common time to receive Confirmation at St. Joseph's is at the end of 8th grade after completing two full years in our preparation program. Students in grades 7-12 may celebrate Confirmation after completing two full years in our preparation program. The normal time to receive Confirmation at St. Joseph's is at the end of 8th grade. Students in 9th-12th grade may enter into our teen theology program with the Initiation students).

Preparation for Confirmation means that the baptized child is now ready to move into the larger Christian family of the parish community and the universal church. It also means that the candidate is ready and willing to take on the responsibilities of a more mature Catholic Christian.

Per diocese regulations, this is a two year process that usually begins no earlier than 7<sup>th</sup> Grade.

The guidelines for the child's Confirmation will be communicated when the child is enrolled in the Youth Program.

In addition to faithful Sunday Mass attendance including Holy Days of Obligation, the faith formation requirements for Confirmation are typically met by parents / guardians / sponsors / children attending ongoing faith formation classes and specific annual retreats as specified by the parish (contact the Youth and Confirmation Minister for details).

See below for specific Confirmation requirements.

## SPECIFIC CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

**Catechism Attendance:** St. Joseph's Parish School of Religion holds weekly classes from September to May at various times depending on grade level. More than *five* (5) absences from the weekly class will result in that year not being counted (classes can be applied to the following year). There will be events (including Masses and retreats) with required attendance. Alternative events may be considered at the discretion of the Confirmation Coordinator, Pastor, and the Director of Religious Education. Every effort is made to publish these dates prior to the start of the year.

**Confirmation Name:** If the Candidate chooses, they may select a patron saint they feel called to follow as a model for their life in Christ. This saint name will be used during Confirmation, but a patron saint is not required and should only be chosen if the Candidate feels strongly about choosing a patron saint.

**Ministry Experience:** Stewardship of prayer, service, and giving is very important to the life of a Christian. Our candidates are called to exercise their faith through a significant ministry experience to help prepare them for lifelong stewardship. This is for the benefit of the student so that they can experience the joy of serving others and develop the habit of practicing corporal and spiritual works of mercy. All students are responsible for discovering such ministry opportunities, and although some may be found at St. Joseph's (such as volunteering for Vacation Bible Retreats, or Altar Serving on a regular schedule for the whole school year), the parish is not responsible for supplying them.

### *Specific Ministry Experience Guidelines:*

- Candidate must complete 20 hours total during their two years of Confirmation preparation.
  - At least one experience each year must be three or more hours in a single act of service.
  - 10 hours must involve the Corporal Works of Mercy.
- Regularly expected life activities (e.g., babysitting or doing chores in one's own family) will not be counted as ministry experience.

**Prayers:** Candidates should know all of the "Prayers to Know by Heart" (see below) including being familiar with the general order of holy Mass in order to receive Confirmation.

**Reconciliation:** Monthly Confession is recommended, and special services will also be held periodically.

**Rehearsal:** Candidates, parents, and sponsors must attend the rehearsal for the Confirmation Mass. Any student not attending or not on time for the rehearsal will not be allowed to receive Confirmation at the Masses the rehearsal is for. Any student missing rehearsal will not be allowed to receive Confirmation.

**Retreats:** Confirmation candidates must attend one spiritual retreat day per year during Confirmation preparation. Retreats are very valuable part of the preparation process as candidates will encounter Jesus through various activities, prayer experiences, and in fellowship with each other and the Retreat Team. Friendships are solidified which will support their faith life, and their personal relationship with Jesus is strengthened for mature spirituality.

**Sacraments:** Celebrating the sacraments is a special part of the Confirmation journey. Prior to the Confirmation Mass, the candidate must have received the sacraments of Baptism and Confession. Those candidates who have not received first Holy Communion will do so at the Confirmation Mass with the Bishop.

**Sponsors:** Each candidate is required to select a Sponsor according to the guidelines provided in the Rite of Confirmation and Canon Law (892-893). The sponsor will watch in love and prayer over the progress of the candidate in the Confirmation journey. Following the celebration of Confirmation, the sponsor should continue to be a friend, witness and guide to the newly confirmed. Sponsor qualities include someone who the candidate is comfortable speaking frankly and openly with about their faith or other personal questions, communicates with the candidate often communicates via email, telephone, and/or personal visits, and will ideally be able to attend at least one of the sponsor workshops with the candidate.

**Sponsor Requirements:** The Church has established the following norms governing the qualifications needed to be a sponsor or Godparent. Sponsorship is limited to one Godfather and/or one Godmother (Code of Canon Law #873), but additional persons may be witnesses.

According to the Code of Canon Law (874), the sponsor must:

- be at least sixteen (16) years old
- be a Catholic who has been Confirmed and received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist
- leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken\*
- not be bound by any canonical penalty
- not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

\*Sponsors must be faithful Catholics (e.g., who regularly attend Sunday Mass, are married according to the norms of the Catholic Church if married, and striving to deepen their relationship with God through Jesus). Further, Godparents / Sponsors should be sufficiently mature with strong and continuing influence throughout the child's life.

Sponsors should not be individuals who are in a romantic relationship with the one being confirmed.

Sponsors must also:

- Complete the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Sponsor Form
- Turn in any required certificates (these require the signature of the pastor where they attend as well as the church seal of their parish).
- Participate in any required sponsor workshops / retreats.
- Attend the Confirmation Mass rehearsal and Confirmation Mass or have a stand-in selected by the candidate.

# Marriage



When Catholics understand the depth of commitment that Christ is calling them to in the Sacrament of Marriage, they are better prepared to put Him at the center of their lives and so share this sense of commitment and faith with the children they bring in to this world. Our faith is handed down from generation to generation; therefore, strong marriages create strong families who create strong Christians.

The Catholic vision of marriage is often very different than the world's view. Marriage is from God – it is not merely a civil union recognized by the state. Sacramental marriage is rooted in Sacred Scripture and detailed the teachings and practices of the Church. Among these, the Church teaches that marriage unites a couple in faithful and mutual love that is open to new life. Marriage is a response to God's call to holiness, and a sign of Christ's love to the world.

As such, marriage is to be permanent, exclusive, and faithful. These elements are necessary to foster and protect marriage's twin purposes: growth in mutual love between the spouses (the "unitive" aspect), and the generation and upbringing of children (the "procreative" aspect). Because true consent requires both knowledge and free choice, couples wishing to be married in the Catholic Church should be properly prepared before making such a momentous decision.

The faith formation requirements for marriage are typically met by the couple attending St. Joseph's *Marriage Preparation Course for Engaged Couples* - a six week course taught by married couples and priests (contact the Parish Office for details).

# ADULT FAITH FORMATION



## Becoming Catholic: Christian Initiation for Adults

Christian Initiation is entering into full communion with the Catholic Church, receiving the sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Communion), and beginning to live life as a Catholic. For adults, this process begins with the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* or “RCIA” (for the purposes of Christian Initiation, people are considered adults at the age of 16).

The RCIA is the modern form of the *catechumenate* of the early days of the Church. Becoming Christian in the first five centuries involved a sharp break with the surrounding culture. New Catholic Christians entered into a way of living which demanded deep commitment and often risked their lives to become Christian. In the modern world, our faith also demands deep commitment, for our beliefs and the beliefs of our society are often in tension. RCIA helps prepare people for such a commitment (Luke 14:28).

To get started in RCIA, meet with the RCIA Coordinator who will discuss your current status and help you get started. When you begin the process, there is no obligation to continue on your part. The first meetings are your chance for you to ask questions, receive the good news of the Catholic Christian life, and open the way for spiritual growth.

**Stage One (Inquiry):** in the *Inquiry* classes (also known as *Pre-catechumenate*). During this time, basic teachings of the Church are introduced and ample time is given for questions. This period often lasts for several months, but can continue for as long as one wishes to attend. After some time in *Inquiry*, those who are ready may choose to enter into a deeper relationship with the Church and begin their formal preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation.

**Stage Two (Catechumenate):** At the *Rites of Acceptance / Welcoming*, inquirers enter into the next stage of RCIA known as the *Catechumenate*. This is a period of more intense theological preparation for the reception of the Sacraments. This period often lasts between one and two years. The program may vary depending on which sacraments are needed (for example, a validly baptized Christian from a non-Catholic background will not be baptized again).

**Stage Three (*Purification & Enlightenment*):** As Easter approaches, those who will be received into the Church will attend the *Rite of Election* at the beginning of Lent. The *Elect* are then immersed in the Church's prayers and love to prepare for fruitful reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion. (There are other processes for those who have already received one or more of these sacraments.)

**Stage Four (*Mystagogy*):** After reception of the Sacraments of Initiation, RCIA continues for a time known as *Mystagogy*. During this time, new Catholics ("*Neophytes*") spend time learning more deeply about the practices involved in the Catholic life and community.

## Adult Catechesis

While child and youth education is almost universally recognized as a priority in Catholic parishes, adult education ought to be the top priority for the Church. Pope Saint John Paul II once said that, "*One of the constant concerns whose urgency is confirmed by present day experience throughout the world, is the catechesis of adults. This is the principal form of catechesis because it is addressed to persons who have the greatest responsibility and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form.*" (*Catechesi Tradendae*, 43).

### *Parish Groups*

St. Joseph's offers several ongoing and single-run classes for adults who wish to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic faith. Some of the regularly scheduled faith formation courses include:

- **Becoming Catholic – Rite of Christian Initiation (Adult)**
  - Mondays, 7:00pm - 8:30pm (JP6/7 & 8)
    - Contact: Noemi Ewalt - [newalt@stjmod.com](mailto:newalt@stjmod.com)
- **Confirmation (Adult)**
  - Thursdays, 6:30 pm - 8:30pm (JP6 & 8)
    - Contact: Noemi Ewalt - [newalt@stjmod.com](mailto:newalt@stjmod.com)
- **Lunchtime Bible Study (Adult)**
  - Thursdays, 12:00pm - 1:00pm (JP5)
    - Contact: Annette Forsman - [4sman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:4sman@sbcglobal.net)
- **Evening Faith Study (Adult)**
  - Tuesdays, 6:30pm - 8:00pm
    - Contact: Doug Beaumont - [dbeaumont@stjmod.com](mailto:dbeaumont@stjmod.com)
- **St. Joseph's Workshop (Men's Faith Study)**
  - Wednesdays, 6:00am - 7:30am (Hall)
    - Contact: John Sablan - [johnjosephsablan@gmail.com](mailto:johnjosephsablan@gmail.com)
  - Wednesdays, 7:00pm - 9:00pm (JP6)
    - Contact: Richard Braun - [maferick@netscape.net](mailto:maferick@netscape.net)
- **Daughters of the King (Women's Faith Study)**
  - Thursdays, 6:30pm - 8:00pm (JP11)
    - Contact: Juana Aguilar - [aguilarjimenez.juana@gmail.com](mailto:aguilarjimenez.juana@gmail.com)

- **Marriage Preparation (Couples)**
  - Schedule / Location Varies
    - Contact: Laura Harker - [lharker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lharker@sbcglobal.net)
- **Baptism Preparation (Parents):** (1/month in English & Español)
  - Tuesdays, 7:00pm - 9:00pm (JP6)
  - Saturdays, 10:00am - 12:00pm (JP6)
    - Contact: Doug Beaumont – [dbeaumont@stjmiod.com](mailto:dbeaumont@stjmiod.com)
- **Seven Steps to Becoming Financially Free**
  - Schedule varies, see website for information: [www.stjmod.com/7steps.html](http://www.stjmod.com/7steps.html)

## *Small Groups*



Small groups are an important part of personal formation. St. Joseph’s provides opportunities for such group study. If you are interested in joining or hosting such a group please contact the Director of Religious Education.

## *Online Learning*



St. Joseph’s offers its parishioners a free subscription to FORMED – an amazing online resource that can be used for personal or group studies. Simply go to [www.stjmod.formed.org](http://www.stjmod.formed.org) and sign up to get started!

## ***Getting Involved: Adult Stewardship Opportunities***



We are always seeking quality catechists for our numerous education programs as well as hosts for small groups. Whether it is ongoing weekly programs like RCIA, monthly classes like Baptism Preparation, or occasional classes throughout the year like Marriage Preparation, we can always use quality teachers, hosts, and sponsors! For more information, contact the Director of Religious Education.

Catechists are *Lay Ministers* - not “just volunteers”! A catechist is someone who . . .

- Is a mature person of faith, at least 18 years of age, and a fully initiated member of the Church (has received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and communion).
- Lives an active Catholic and sacramental life, who celebrates and receives communion regularly, and reflects Catholic values in work, worship, and service.
- Possesses a strong awareness of God’s grace in his/her own life.
- Has a strong prayer life and realizes the importance of building Christian community.
- Can make a commitment to be dependable.
- Communicates well with students, parents, fellow volunteers, and parish staff.
- Knows what is appropriate for the age group of students and respects individual growth, differences, and cultures.
- Shares knowledge and experience with new fellow catechists.
- Can participate in required retreats and other on-going faith formation opportunities.
- Is - or is working toward - *Safe Environment* certification if working with children.

If this is you, you’re ready to get started! Contact the Coordinator of the program you are interested in for more information! (See *Contact Information* above.)

# YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



## Becoming Catholic: Christian Initiation for Youth

The *Youth Catechumenate* is a 2 year process for teens in 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade who are seeking to become children of God through Baptism and enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Just as the normal formation period for Confirmation is two years, so too is the normal formation period for children, youth, and families participating in the Children's Catechumenate (for some this process may take longer). Catechumen and Candidates may participate in many of the same classes and events as their Catholic peers, but they must enroll in the *Rite of Christian Initiation* (adapted for youth) to come into full communion with the Catholic Church.

We also have an optional Teen Theology class (required for Christian Initiation) that meets at the same time as our adult Initiation classes: **Mondays 7:00 – 8:00pm.**

The education of children in the faith does not and cannot take place only in the classroom. Children who are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation should have as much support at home as possible. Parents should be helping their children to learn and pray with them. To this end, St. Joseph's requires parents to complete Faith Formation classes in sacrament years (see Adult Faith Formation).

# Youth Catechesis



## *Youth Group*

Pope Saint John Paul II said in his *Letter to Families*, “Parents are the first and foremost educators of their own children.” He also said: “Parents by themselves are not capable of satisfying every requirement for the whole process of raising children.” Our goal at St. Joseph's is to aid parents by providing youth with a solid catechetical, relational, and experiential curriculum that prepares their hearts and minds to fully receive the Gospel message. Through systematic catechesis, youth are offered opportunities for conversion, and challenged to live their Catholic faith as well as serve within the parish and greater community.

Our High-School Youth Group meets Sundays from 7:00pm - 8:30pm in the Fr. O'Hare Hall.

## **Prayers to Know By Heart (Youth)**

### *Prayers of the Rosary*

#### Fatima Prayer

*O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy.*

#### Hail Holy Queen

*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile, show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary:  
[LEADER] Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.  
[ALL] That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

## Concluding Prayer

*Let us pray. O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchase for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that meditation upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

## ***Mysteries of the Rosary***

### The Glorious Mysteries *(suggested to pray on Sundays and Wednesdays)*

1. The Resurrection of Jesus (John 20:1)
2. The Ascension of Jesus (Luke 24:36)
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1)
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven (Revelation 12:1)
5. The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth (Revelation 12:1)

### The Joyful Mysteries *(suggested to pray on Mondays and Saturdays)*

1. The Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:26)
2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39)
3. The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:5)
4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:22)
5. Finding Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41)

### The Sorrowful Mysteries *(suggested to pray on Tuesdays and Fridays)*

1. Agony of Jesus in the Garden (Matthew 26:36)
2. Jesus is Scourged at the Pillar (Matthew 27:26)
3. Jesus is Crowned with Thorns (Matthew 27:27)
4. Jesus Carries His Cross (Matthew 27:32)
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus (Matthew 27:33)

### The Luminous Mysteries *(suggested to pray on Thursdays)*

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan (Matthew 3:17)
2. The Wedding at Cana, Christ Manifested (John 2:11)
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15)
4. The Transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17:2)
5. The Last Supper, The Holy Eucharist (Matthew 26:26)

## *Retreats and Conferences*



### **Aptos Retreat (High School)**

Every year, on the 2nd weekend of November, STJ Youth Ministry holds a retreat at St. Francis Retreat center in Aptos California. It is located right on the beach where the teens are able to experience God's beauty in nature and God's love through powerful talks, activities, and the sacraments. It is an unforgettable weekend that all High School teens are welcome to attend. Contact the Youth Ministry office for details.

### **Steubenville Conference (High School)**

The Franciscan University of Steubenville puts on Catholic conferences for teens in various locations outside Ohio. And it is so much more than a conference! It's a full retreat weekend and a transformational experience! Evangelistic in nature and authentically Catholic, Steubenville Conference is a weekend filled with great speakers, engaging music, reverent Mass and prayer, and tremendous fellowship. Through powerful witness, inspiring worship and dynamic liturgies, Steubenville Conference offers youth, young adults and leaders the opportunity to encounter Christ and to see the truth and beauty of our Church. To be loved so that they may go out into the world and love one another! The conference takes places usually in late July or early August. Contact the Youth Ministry office for details.

### **Initiate Retreat (High School)**

Many teens are searching for love in all the wrong places, St. Joseph Youth Ministry is here to say, "Look no further." Jesus Christ is the ultimate love and the ultimate joy and HE has Initiated a relationship with us by dying on the Cross, Resurrecting, and giving us the Church. INITATE is a weekend retreat where teens encounter Christ's love through the Sacraments, fellowship, forgiveness and healing. It's the perfect opportunity for any teen to START their journey with STJ Youth. They will meet our High School Leaders and Young Adult Core team. This is the perfect weekend for any High School teen.

## 8th Grade Retreat

Our 8th Grade retreat is a one-day event that focuses on building the youths' relationship with Jesus. The retreat is full of testimonies, activities, and music lead by our very own High School Peer Ministry group called Militia.

## 7th Grade Retreat

St. Joseph's 7th grade retreat is a retreat for both parents and youth seeking to better understand their role as parent and child in the context of the faith. The retreat is focused on building a personal discipleship to Jesus and sharing that relationship with your child or your parent. It is designed to open up the doors of communication regarding the Catholic Faith.



## ***Getting Involved: Youth Stewardship Opportunities***



**High School CORE Team / Life Nights:** The Core Team helps facilitate formation, fellowship, liturgy and service for High School Teenagers. Commitment includes Sunday evening youth group meeting and weekly Core meetings.

**Milita Mariae Peer Ministry:** High school teens volunteer their time and minister to Confirmation students. If you are in high school and interested in growing in your faith with others, this is for you! Contact us!

**Youth Hospitality Ministry:** Contact the youth ministry office if you would like to help provide food or snacks for various youth events.

### **Chaperones**

Supervise extra-curricular activities, events, and retreats once or twice a year.

### **Christian Service**

Organize and supervise Candidates as they complete Works of Mercy monthly or weekly.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact the St. Joseph's Youth Minister. (See *Contact Information* above.)

# CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



## Becoming Catholic: Christian Initiation for Children

The *Children's Catechumenate* is a 2 year process for unbaptized children aged 7 to 12 who are seeking Christian Initiation into the Church. Just as the normal formation period for Confirmation is two years, so too is the normal formation period for children, youth, and families participating in the Children's Catechumenate (for some this process may take longer). Catechumen and Candidates participate in the same classes as their Catholic peers (determined by grade level), augmented with Christian Initiation-specific teachings and events during the year.

## Children's Catechesis

### *Catechism Classes*

Parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of the faith. We therefore partner with parents by teaching catechism classes in our *Parish School of Religion* to nourish and develop their children's faith according to this basic principle. Our classroom volunteers work to support the efforts of parents, but we assume that parents are teaching both traditional prayers and the art of prayer, attending Mass every Sunday together as a family, and leading them in living a life of charity.<sup>3</sup>

Children's Catechesis is taught one day per week **Tuesday through Thursday from 3:45 to 5:15pm.**

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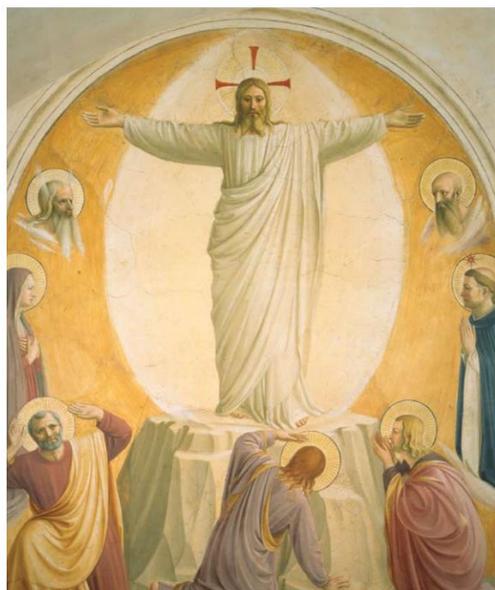
<sup>3</sup>The mission of St. Joseph's is to support those who are undertaking the vocation of matrimony, parenthood, and family life as defined by the Catholic Church. The faithful love between a husband and a wife provide the child with his or her first experience of the faithful and fruitful love of God. We recognize that there are parents who, through no fault of their own, must make heroic efforts to raise children without the complementarity of love that exists in a traditional family. We welcome these families and commit ourselves to support them. We cannot, however, effectively catechize children who are being raised in families whose lifestyles run counter to church teaching on marriage and family. If parents do not give good examples of Christian life then the efforts of the parish will be fruitless. Therefore, at least one of the parents/guardians of our students must be a faithful, practicing Catholic and that the family lead lives that do not conflict with Catholic teachings. We must reserve the right to refuse to admit children into our program whose parents lead a life that is incompatible with Catholic teaching and/or scandalous to the others in our program.

Catechism classes are offered through our *Parish School of Religion* following age-appropriate curricula:

For ages 4-6 (Pre-K to Kindergarten), we have the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* – a Montessori-styled, hands-on class that develops small children in a quiet, respectable learning environment.



In grades 1-6, we present the *Faith and Life* series by Ignatius Press, a solid, orthodox Catholic program hailed by Pope Benedict XVI as "the best catechetical series" and which Cardinal Christoph Schönborn says, "has proven to be an excellent series for religious instruction in schools and family catechesis in the home. . . . a textbook of refreshing and high quality."



*"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."* Matthew 17:5

## CHAPTER 15

### The Father and I Are One

"And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

John 17:11

In the last chapter, we learned that Christ taught people about the heavenly Father who loved them and offered them the way to eternal life. But there was another part of Christ's teaching. It was so unusual, and so surprising, that Jesus did not even tell people about it at first. He only gave hints of it now and then. And sometimes, when people found out, Jesus would tell them not to tell anyone else.

What was this mysterious news that Jesus only let out little by little? It was the truth that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, fully God and fully man. The Jews were not at all ready for this truth. They thought the Messiah would be a man, a descendant of David who would restore the kingdom of Israel. They also thought the Messiah would be a holy leader who would show them how to become closer to God. But God's Son? The idea of a man claiming to be God sounded like **blasphemy**, a sin against the Second Commandment. So you can see why Jesus had to be patient and careful about telling the people who he really is.

The first hints Jesus gave of his **divinity** were his miracles. With a word or a touch, he healed

people of blindness, leprosy, and many other diseases. On two occasions he multiplied bread to feed thousands of people. By witnessing these things, people could see that Jesus shared God's power in a special way. Jesus could also heal people who were possessed by devils. (When someone is "possessed" the devil controls his speech and actions so completely that the person has no power to stop it.) The Gospels tell us that these devils knew who Jesus was, but that Jesus ordered them to keep silent. The time had not yet come for a clear statement of Christ's divinity, and the devil was not the right one to make such a statement.

Jesus allowed his apostles to learn the truth sooner. They saw him stop a storm with a single command, and they wondered, "Who then is this, that he commands even wind and water, and they obey him?" (Lk 8:25). At another time, the apostles were again caught in a storm on the lake, but Jesus was not with them. Late at night, they were astonished to see Jesus walking across the water toward them. Peter asked if he might come to Jesus across the water, so Jesus said, "Come." Peter was

## Prayers to Know By Heart

### *First Grade*

#### Sign of the Cross

*In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

#### Glory Be

*Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.*

#### Hail Mary

*Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*



### *Second Grade*

#### Our Father

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

#### Act of Contrition

*O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.*

### ***Third Grade***

#### **Apostles' Creed**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.*

### ***Fourth Grade***

#### **Prayer to Our Guardian Angel**

*Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day (night) be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.*

#### **Prayer to Saint Michael**

*St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits that wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

### ***Fifth Grade***

#### **Angelus**

*V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary.....  
V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. R. Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary.....  
V. And the Word became Flesh. R. [Bowling] And dwelt among us. Hail Mary.....  
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.  
LET US PRAY: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

### ***Sixth Grade***

#### **Memorare**

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
Inspired with confidence, I fly unto you, O virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me.  
Amen.*

## *Family Faith Formation*



When it comes to raising children in faith, reports consistently show that parents matter more than any other factor. In an effort to follow the Church’s mandate to form adults and support parents as they fulfill the role of primary catechists<sup>4</sup> to their children, St. Joseph’s offers a program called “Family Faith Formation” which focuses on preparing parents / guardians to catechize their children at home, at their own pace and on their own schedule.

The format of Family Faith Formation is a monthly “parental retreat” at the parish the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month beginning in August. During the retreat time (approximately 90 minutes), parents will enjoy food, fellowship, and formation, while their children do activities elsewhere on the campus. Parent formation will involve instruction concerning the subjects, lessons, and various activities they will experience with their children at home over the next month. After the first retreat, the previous month’s catechesis will be reviewed as well. After the retreat, families will have the opportunity to attend evening Mass together and then teens involved in youth ministry can attend the *Life Night*.

There are many practical advantages to the Family Faith Formation program such as flexibility with the family’s weekly schedule, but the main benefit is that it keeps families together as they grow in the knowledge of God’s love, Christ’s sacrifice, and the Spirit’s unity. This is reflected in the program’s curriculum (Sophia Institute’s *Family of Faith*) which is designed to work for grades 1-6 with different activities for older and younger children so that they do not need to be taught separately.

The curriculum is designed as a cyclical four-year program keyed to the *Catechism’s* four pillars (theology, sacraments, morals, prayer). The cycle repeats so that subjects can be experienced at both beginning and more advanced levels. Because instruction in the sacraments occurs primarily during the second year, this program will eventually be offered in two offset tracks so that sacrament preparation can occur within any two year period.

Note that all parish catechetical and sacrament reception policies – *including enrollment* - apply to the children and parents involved in Family Faith Formation.

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<sup>4</sup> See <https://douglasbeaumont.com/2019/01/08/on-family-faith-formation-in-the-parish/>

## *Home School Families*



The Church teaches that parents are to be the first Catechists of their children, and St. Joseph's supports the rights of parents to catechize their children and prepare them for the reception of sacraments. If home school families wish their child(ren) to receive religious education at home rather than through the parish program, they are free to do so following the norms, policies, and guidelines set forth by the Diocese and adaptations followed at St. Joseph's parish (see below).<sup>5</sup>

Families may use the same catechetical text(s) and supplementary resources used by the Parish (including participation in family Faith Formation – see above), or they may choose to use any primary curriculum approved by the USCCB.<sup>6</sup> All parish catechetical and sacrament reception policies\* – *including annual enrollment* - apply to families involved in homeschool education. Specifics include:

- Children must be annually enrolled as St. Joseph's home school students so that the parish has the children's educational records. (Note: this is distinct from registering the *family* as members of the parish). Those using their own materials still must enroll, but tuition is waived.
- Parents will report the student's catechetical instruction success (e.g., attendance, prayer memorization, and an educational summary) to the Coordinator when requested.
- Home-schooled children fulfill the same requirements for sacraments as those enrolled with the parish (e.g., ministry experience, sponsor selection, retreats, etc.) following the norms, policies, and guidelines set forth by the Diocese and adaptations followed at St. Joseph's parish.
- Home-schooled children receive the sacraments in the parish at the same Masses (English, Spanish, or Latin when available) as those catechized in other parish programs and at a similar age (typically grades 2-3 for Confession, communion, and grades 7-8 for Confirmation).
- Parents will participate in parish sacramental preparation activities when appropriate.
- Families to be confirmed must participate one spiritual retreat day per year during Confirmation preparation as mandated by the diocese.

\*Sacrament reception is initiated by submitting the SACRAMENT REQUEST FORM available at [stjmod.com/homeschool](http://stjmod.com/homeschool) to the Religious Education Dept. Students must be annually enrolled as St. Joseph's home school students in order to receive sacraments.

<sup>5</sup> Documentation of Canon Law, Diocese Norms, Policies, and Guidelines, and Parish Adaptations available upon request from the Director of Religious Education.

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.usccb.org/about/evangelization-and-catechesis/subcommittee-on-catechism/upload/Current-Conformity-List.pdf>

## Other Children's Programs

### *Children's Liturgy of the Word*



This joyful ministry enables children in grades K-6 to experience all that their parents are experiencing at Mass, but at a level especially adapted for children. Children begin Mass with their family in the Church and are dismissed after the Gloria, meeting for the Liturgy of the Word in the John Paul II Center and return after the Prayers of the Faithful. Children's Liturgy meets during school year at the Sunday 10:30am Mass.

### *Children's Adoration*



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for children takes place on the first Friday of each month from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Confessions are available, and the entire family is welcome.

## *Vacation Bible Retreat*



Every summer St. Joseph's offers Vacation Bible Retreat - a Catholic based retreat for children in grades K-6 where learning and growing in the faith is presented and encouraged through activities, lessons, and by example. The goal is to provide Catholic faith education in a fun atmosphere. It provides a vehicle in teaching and encouraging the development of a faith foundation of Catholicism.

## *Music Camp*



Each summer St. Joseph's offers a Music Camp for kids. A two-day "camp" experience (daytime at the parish) which teaches children the basics of music and choir.

## *Getting Involved: Stewardship Opportunities*



With hundreds of students, both community and parent support is very important. Parents, other family members or friends, and parishioners are encouraged to actively participate in the Religious Education program at St. Joseph's Church.

**CATECHISTS:** We are always seeking quality catechists for our numerous education programs. Whether it is ongoing weekly programs like RCIA, monthly classes like Baptism Preparation, or occasional classes throughout the year like Marriage Preparation, we can always use quality teachers and sponsors!

Catechists are Lay ministers - not "just volunteers"! A catechist is someone who. . .

- Is a mature person of faith, at least 18 years of age, and a fully initiated member of the Church (has received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and communion).
- Lives an active Catholic and sacramental life, who celebrates and receives communion regularly, and reflects Catholic values in work, worship, and service.
- Possesses a strong awareness of God's grace in his/her own life.
- Has a strong prayer life and realizes the importance of building Christian community.
- Can make a commitment to be dependable.
- Communicates well with students, parents, fellow volunteers, and parish staff.
- Knows what is appropriate for the age group of students and respects individual growth, differences, and cultures.
- Shares knowledge and experience with new fellow catechists.
- Can participate in required retreats and other on-going faith formation opportunities.
- Is - or is working toward - Safe Environment certification if working with children.

If this is you, you're ready to get started! Contact the Coordinator of the program you are interested in for more information!

# GENERAL PARENT GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

## Enrollment

1. Parents or guardians must be registered parishioners at St. Joseph's parish.
2. Enrollment is done in person (see the parish bulletin and website for dates).
3. Class scheduling is according to a first-come, first-served basis.
4. Enrollment forms can be downloaded and filled out ahead of time from [stjmod.com/enroll.html](http://stjmod.com/enroll.html).
5. Students will be enrolled in an appropriate program commensurate with student's age / grade.
6. St. Joseph's provides for special needs children based on catechist availability.
7. No student will be denied entry into our program because of sex, race, disability, or financial need.
8. Late enrollment ceases at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> week of class.<sup>7</sup>
9. Tuition will not be refunded for withdrawals after the 5<sup>th</sup> week of class, and material fees are non-refundable.

## Responsibilities

1. ***Assuring children's attendance.*** Students are allowed only *five* (5) absences (regardless of reason). Options for completing the year's education can be discussed with the Coordinator
2. ***Getting students to and from classes on time:***

### *Children's Classes:*

#### a. **3:45 - DROP OFF**

- Child drop-off car line forms in front of Hall parking lots (which are closed).
- All children enter the Hall first – parents/guardians may walk children up to Hall entryway, or let children cross the Hall/PSR parking lot to main Hall doors on their own. (CGS families enter through Hall and proceed to PSR atrium).

#### b. **4:00-5:15pm – CLASS SESSIONS**

- Non-Safe-Environment Certified adults are not allowed in school areas during class sessions unless issued a visitor pass by the PSR Office.
- PSR restrooms are only available to students, catechists, and parish staff.
- PSR Office Hours are 4:00–5:00pm.

#### c. **5:15-5:30pm - PICK UP**

- Following diocese safety guidelines, students must be picked up by parents/guardians from inside the Hall. Students will not be released otherwise.
- Please call office if child will be picked up late.
- **Please note St. Joseph's often does not have staff support after 6pm.**
  - *Consistently late pickups may result in fees.*
  - *Authorities may be called to ensure children's safety if they are not picked up by 6pm.*

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<sup>7</sup> Families transferring from other parish programs may enroll in similar programs past this deadline.

### **Youth Classes:**

- **7th Grade** meets **Wednesdays** from **5:45pm - 7:15pm**
- **8th Grade** meets **Wednesdays** from **7:00pm - 8:30pm**
- **High School** meets **Sundays** from **7:00pm - 8:30pm**
- **High School Theology** class “Rooted” meets **Mondays** from **7:00pm - 8:30pm**

3. Knowing what their children are being taught – please contact the Religious Education office if you have questions about catechists or curriculum.
4. Teaching their children respect for teachers and peers. Maintaining discipline within the classroom is the responsibility of the catechist and aide. Teachers are encouraged to reward positive/appropriate behavior with verbal praise rather than candy or other material prizes. Every child has the right to learn about our Catholic faith, and every minute a teacher spends in discipline is a minute stolen from the other students in the class.

Inappropriate behavior by student will result in a warning. If said behavior continues, student will be sent to the PSR office and given another warning with a reminder about the consequences of further disruptive or disrespectful behavior. If inappropriate behavior persists, the student will be sent to the PSR office and the catechist will call the child’s parents after class to discuss the situation. The Children’s Catechesis Coordinator may talk with student to determine if student will return to class. If the student is sent to the office a third time, then the office will call the parents to pick up the child. Later, the Coordinator will discuss the situation with the parents to determine whether the student will remain in the catechesis program.

5. Preparing for sacrament reception. During sacrament years (e.g., grades 2-3 and 7-8), parents must attend all preparation classes and meetings pertaining to the reception of the sacrament.
6. All sacrament certificates must be brought to PSR Office before sacraments can be received.
7. Following the *Precepts of the Catholic Church*:
  - a. Attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; and avoid activities that hinder the renewal of soul and body, or growth in union with the Lord.
  - b. Go to Confession at least once a year.
  - c. Receive Communion at least during the Easter Season.
  - d. Fast and abstain on the days appointed: it is acceptable to eat meat on Fridays outside of Lent *if* another pious work or practice is substituted for it.
  - e. Contribute to the support of the Church: this is *not* just financial support but also participating in ministry and works of mercy.
8. Affirm their calling by their Baptism and Confirmation to:
  - a. Join in the missionary spirit and apostolate of the Church.
  - b. Study the Teachings of the Church and use that knowledge to advance the cause of Christ and the mission of the Church in evangelizing the world.
  - c. Obey the laws of the Church concerning marriage (including teachings on birth control, abortion, divorce, etc.); provide religious training and an example of sanctity to one’s children and grandchildren; use parish facilities to advance one’s own religious education.

# Catechism Class Calendar

September '19							October '19							November '19						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December '19							January '20							February '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March '20							April '20							May '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

COLOR KEY		
X	High School Youth Sessions	Sundays 7:00 – 8:30pm
X	7 <sup>th</sup> / 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Sessions	Wednesdays 5:45 – 7:15pm (7 <sup>th</sup> grade) Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:30pm (8 <sup>th</sup> grade)
X	K / 1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Sessions	T / W / Th 3:45 – 5:15pm (1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> grades) T / W / Th 4:00 – 5:30pm (K: ages 4-6)
X	First Reconciliation Sessions	T / W / Th 3:45 – 5:15pm
X	No Sessions	
X	<b>Mixed colors indicate two groups</b> (In this example: Grades K-6 <sup>th</sup> meet, 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grades do not.)	

**~ Schedule Changes ~**

*Some events and maintenance work cannot be scheduled far in advance, so occasional schedule modifications should be expected throughout the year. We always try to post updates on the website ([stjmod.com/catechism-calendar.html](http://stjmod.com/catechism-calendar.html)), social media, and the REMIND app. Parish missions are considered part of faith formation.*