

St. Christopher Parish
Office of Religious Education

Faith Formation/Religious Education develops first and foremost in your own home. At St. Christopher we want to support you. In that effort we have many programs and opportunities designed for your children (age preschool through High School).

Please read through this brochure for more information.



Programs are explained in full detail at stchristopheronline.com under the "Youth Faith Formation" tab.

Director of Religious Education

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Traditional Classroom Instruction:

- ◇ St. Christopher School and Center for Children (Preschool-8th Grade)
- ◇ G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) Religious Education for students in non-Catholic Schools. (Grades 1-5)
- ◇ Parents wishing to homeschool their children in faith formation are supported and offered resources.

Faith Formation through small group and youth ministry style learning:

- ◇ Junior High Youth Ministry Religious Education Sessions for students in non-Catholic Schools (Grade 6-8)
- ◇ High School Youth Ministry Religious Education Sessions for students in non-Catholic Schools (Grade 9-12)

Sacramental Preparation:

- ◇ Children in the second grade are prepared for reception of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Communion during their regular classroom instruction.
- ◇ Teens in their sophomore year of high school or older are prepared for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 10th grade small group sessions. This is for students in both Catholic and non-Catholic schools.



- ◇ Vacation Bible School is an exciting adventure for our young parishioners ages 4 years old to the summer's incoming 4th graders. The kids enjoy praise music, gizmo projects, skits, Bible stories and more that teach of God's love, constancy and friendship.
- ◇ Online pre-registration is required and there is no cost for the program.
- ◇ VBS takes place for one week out of the summer from 9am-12:00pm Monday through Friday.
- ◇ Jr. High and High School youth as well as plenty of adults are needed to volunteer.

VB-eXperience

- ◇ VBS for 5th and 6th graders is VB-X They'll be commissioned as investigators working on case files to discover more about this guy Jesus we keep hearing about. Their camp is at the same time and throughout the week they'll be deployed to VBS over at the school for secret missions.

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together)

Grades 1-5 for children in non-Catholic Schools

- ◇ All families are welcome to register their children online for classes that teach students to be disciples of Christ through invitation, learning, prayer, service, Sacraments and liturgy in the Catholic church.
- ◇ Classes are Wednesday nights from 7:00pm-8:10pm between September and May in the classrooms of the Emmaus Center (northern most end of the school).
- ◇ Pre-registration is required. The cost of the program is a \$20 donation to cover materials per child.
- ◇ Classes are taught by volunteer teachers (catechists) involved in ongoing development.
- ◇ Our source material is *Discover! Finding Faith in Life* by St. Mary's press (smp.org)

Jr. High Religious Education

Grades 6-8 for children in non-Catholic Schools

- ◇ Young teens enjoy creative and interactive lessons that encourage moral growth, a maturing understanding of the faith and mostly a nurturing relationship with Jesus.
- ◇ Sessions are in the Youth Center (basement of the parish office) on Wednesday nights from 7:00pm-8:10pm. (Sept-March)
- ◇ Pre-registration is required and the cost is a \$20 donation for materials per child.

Freshmen Religious Education

Grades 9 youth in non-Catholic Schools

- ◇ Freshmen meet as a small faith sharing community in the home of their adult facilitator. Inviting youth to a comfortable home does much to inspire community and openness to learning.
- ◇ Pre-registration online is required. A schedule and address will be provided. The group meets one to two times a month, usually on a Sunday. *There is no cost for this program.*
- ◇ Sessions will cover basic Catholic faith teachings as well as navigating the relevant issues of teen life through the lens of our Catholic foundation.

Confirmation Preparation

All parish youth in grade 10 or older

- ◇ Preparation sessions for the Sacrament of Confirmation for youth (in Catholic and Non Catholic schools) in grade 10 or older are held in small groups with adult facilitators.
- ◇ Online pre-registration is required and there is no cost for the program. The program uses an adapted version of the "Decision Point" series by Dynamic Catholic.
- ◇ Additional components for preparation include meeting with their sponsors, engaging in service and attending a Sunday retreat.

Faith Formation Enrichment

St. Christopher offers several opportunities for growing in faith and knowledge of Catholicism.

- ◇ **Preschool Faith Formation** serves children ages 3-5 during the 9am Mass between September to May. Children must be registered online for the free program and will enjoy storytelling, crafts, activities, song, and play that focuses on the Sunday Gospel.
- ◇ In **Children's Liturgy of the Word** children in grades K-4 are invited to be dismissed from Mass between the first reading until the offertory to reflect on the Sunday readings with an adult facilitator at a "child friendly level". This takes place during the 9am Mass between September to May.
- ◇ "**Magnifikid**" missalettes are available each week in the gathering space of church and allow children to follow the Mass along side articles, puzzles and more that explain the Mass.
- ◇ **Faith Texts** are faith inspiring quotes and photos texted to high schoolers once a week.
- ◇ St. Chris has an entire **Youth Ministry Program** for teens in grades 6-12 offering retreats, service projects, mission tips, youth rallies and more. See more on the YM page of the St. Christopher website.
- ◇ St. Chris **Bag Lunch Outreach Project** invites families with children in K-8 to prepare and donate 10 bag lunches every 4 weeks to St. Vincent for a 6 month commitment. The goal is to collectively donate 500 lunches each month. More info is on the website under Youth Faith Formation by clicking "Bag Lunch Project"