

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.



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

Director of Religious Education

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Faith Formation Enrichment

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

- ◇ **Children's Liturgy Page** in the bulletin. Each week in the weekend bulletin is a page geared to children with age appropriate Gospel reflections, prayer and puzzles.
- ◇ In **Children's Liturgy of the Word** children in grades preK-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.
- ◇ **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.



- ◇ 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.
- ◇ 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 as VBS.

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)
- ◇ **Homeschool:** Parents are provided with age appropriate learning materials and supported with periodic “check ins”. (Grades 1-9)

Faith Formation for youth in grade 6-10

- ◇ Junior High Youth Ministry Religious Education Sessions for students in non-Catholic Schools (Grade 6-8)
- ◇ High School Freshmen and their parents are given materials to open up discussion at home regarding the basics of our faith.
- ◇ High School sophomores are invited to participate in the Parish Confirmation Preparation Program.

Sacramental Preparation:

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

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 April in the classrooms of the Emmaus Center (northern most end of the school).
- ◇ Pre-registration is required. The cost of the program is a \$25 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 \$25 donation for materials per child.

Freshmen Religious Education

Grades 9 youth

- ◇ Freshmen and their parents are provided materials to open up discussion at home about the basics of our faith.
- ◇ Periodic events will be offered to pull the community of faith together.
- ◇ By registering online, families are signed up to receive the materials via email. *There is no cost for this program.*

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.
- ◇ The program components include:
 - ◇ Content sessions. Youth can choose to sign up for these sessions online (completed individually) or for in-person sessions completed in a group.
 - ◇ 5 gathered sessions (different from the content sessions) including a Sunday retreat from noon to 8pm.
 - ◇ The source material is Called to Mercy by St. Mary’s Press (smp.org) .
- ◇ Online pre-registration is required and there is a requested donation of \$25 for the