

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
RELIGIOUS FORMATION OFFICE  
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2011/2012

### PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

#### 1. Weekly Religious Formation for grades 1-8.

Begins September 19, 2011. Meets on Mondays from 4 - 5:25 pm or 6 - 7:25 pm  
At time of registration parents choose which session they would prefer.

#### 2. Family Catechesis for grades 1-8.

First session is September 15, 2011 at 6:00 pm for parents only. Regular sessions meet once a month. Participating families make the final determination of day and time. Parents take responsibility for weekly formation sessions with their children.

#### 3. Sacrament Program

If your child is preparing for First Reconciliation/Eucharist or Confirmation a separate registration form needs to be filled out.

### NEW REGISTRATIONS

If your child is new to the program, we will need a full listing of any sacraments received and where they were received, along with any records of previous instruction.

### PAYMENT/ FEES

1 Child	\$ 80	Sunday School \$ 20
2 Children	\$110	First Reconciliation/Eucharist \$ 30
3 Children	\$130 (cap is \$130)	Confirmation \$ 30

**PAYMENT:** Paid in full by Sept 19<sup>th</sup>

*No child will be refused Religious Formation due to the inability to pay full costs. If there is a problem this needs to be discussed with the Director of Religious Formation.*

### OTHER PROGRAMS

**Nursery/Child Care** - Begins Sunday September 25, 2011 during the 11 am Mass.  
This is for toddlers.

**Sunday School** - Begins Sunday September 25, 2011 during the 11 am Mass.  
This is for children ages 3-5. Weekly attendance is important for the child to have some continuity in their learning.

9/23/2011

## SACRAMENTAL POLICY

### **1. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:**

The Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Penance, and Confirmation require parental involvement. Attendance at family sacramental preparation meetings and retreat days are required.

### **2. FIRST RECONCILIATION:**

Sacrament is celebrated prior to First Eucharist. Parents and catechists take responsibility for preparing the children. Usually this sacrament is celebrated in the early part of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

### **3. FIRST EUCHARIST:**

Presuming that your child was baptized as an infant and that the family has had regular contact with the Church, First Eucharist is celebrated around age 7, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. There is a special sacramental book. The completion of this book, celebration of First Reconciliation and participation in Family First Eucharist Days are requirements.

### **4. CONFIRMATION:**

Confirmation is usually celebrated in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There is a special sacramental book. Students participate in a retreat and keep a journal of their service to others. There will be one required parent informational meeting. In addition, there will be one sponsor/candidate sharing evening.

### **5. CATECHUMENATE FOR CHILDREN:**

Children who are in second grade or older and have not been baptized or children who were baptized in another Christian church are part of the Catechumenate for Children. This also includes children who are older and have not received First Eucharist. If you think your child(ren) fall into this category, please talk to the Director of Religious Formation. The program for the initiation of children has additional family-centered times of preparation.

### **6. SPORTS:**

John Paul II Sports Program is open to all children in the parish. Children must be enrolled in a catholic school or registered and attend religious formation sessions faithfully. Religious formation families must be registered prior to the onset of any season and never later than the beginning of classes September 19<sup>th</sup> (this year). CYO sports require that they be registered and attend classes every week.

## QUESTIONS

### **1. WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS NEVER BEEN BAPTIZED?**

#### **A. AND MY CHILD IS GRADE ONE OR YOUNGER?**

The Church considers children in this category the same way it does infants. It is the parent's decision to have the child baptized. The Baptism takes place at one of the regularly scheduled monthly parish celebrations of Baptism. Please contact the parish office (313) 928-1324 not the Religious Formation Office to arrange for this baptism. It is necessary that the family be registered as a member of the parish at least three months prior to the Baptism.

#### **B. AND MY CHILD IS GRADE TWO OR OLDER?**

To begin this process a meeting with the Director of Religious Formation, parents and children would be necessary. The children attend a catholic school or regular religious formation classes with their age group. In addition, they attend the special Catechumenate sessions for children and their parents.

NB: These sacraments do not complete one's learning and growth. Rather they mark the beginning of full initiation and so now real growth and learning must continue throughout life. Children need to continue to be part of the religious formation process.

### **2. WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS BEEN BAPTIZED IN ANOTHER CHRISTIAN CHURCH?**

#### **A. AND MY CHILD IS GRADE ONE OR YOUNGER?**

Once again, the Church considers children of this age in the same category as infants. If a parent is Catholic and now desires that their child become Catholic, then the child is enrolled in the catholic school or religious formation program. During 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, they are prepared for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. At the time of the First Eucharist, they stand with a sponsor/godparent and make a profession of faith, thus becoming officially Catholic, prior to receiving First Eucharist. They continue in the religious formation process and receive Confirmation in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### **B. AND MY CHILD IS GRADE TWO OR OLDER?**

The Church treats children of this age as capable of fully participating in the initiation process. Therefore, they become part of the Catechumenate for Children process (see #1B above).

### **3. WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS BEEN BAPTIZED CATHOLIC BUT IS NOW OLDER AND "OUT-OF-STEP" WITH THE SACRAMENTS OF CHILDREN HIS/HER AGE?**

Families must make an arrangement to meet with the Director of Religious Formation. Children in this category will be admitted to the sacraments as they demonstrate a knowledge and love of the faith. This determination will be done in consultation with the parent, catechist, and Director of Religious Formation. Children in this group must attend regular classes, and on occasion might be encouraged to join the Catechumenate for Children group in order to "Catch-up". They must consistently attend religion classes with their peers. In addition, the parents are asked to be part of special sacramental preparation sessions, including some extra material that is done at home.