

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM OPTIONS

We Welcome Your Family!

Your child's faith formation begins in Baptism, is nourished by the Eucharist, nurtured by family faith at home, celebrated in Parish life, and complemented over the years by specific instruction in Religious Education sessions. We feel privileged to share this faith work with you. *Your children learn to live their faith, first and foremost, in your home.*

Sacramental preparation for **First Eucharist** and **Confirmation** is **a two year process**. However, since each grade level builds on the preceding one, *a consistent participation in the program from year to year is essential for all grades.*



Traditional Religious Ed Sessions for K-7

Sun 9:00AM & 10:45AM, Tues 4:30PM & 6:30PM
The Traditional program at St. Joseph currently has over 1060 children enrolled. Sessions meet for 1 hour and 15 minutes in St. Joseph School classrooms from September through April. Group sizes are limited to 15.

7th/8th Grade Confirmation Home Groups

Sun 7:00PM, Wed 7:00PM, Thurs 7:00PM
Consistent with Archdiocesan guidelines, St. Joseph's **Confirmation preparation is two years** in length and effectively hosted in 7th and 8th Grade Home Groups designed to foster small-group faith sharing, service and the growing maturity of our young people.

Home Group sessions are taught by two adults, either a Catechist and an Adult Assistant or two Co-catechists in their own home or that of a host family. In general, we attempt to keep groups of students together over the two years of preparation. Sessions meet for 1 hour and 30 minutes. 7th graders meet for 23 sessions from September through April and 8th graders meet for 17 sessions from Sept. through Feb.

"Faith Weaving" : A Family Experience

This approach to sharing faith as a family means that everyone comes together at one time from the youngest to the oldest, children as well as adults. The FW sessions are held once a month on a Sunday 6:00PM or Friday 6:30PM for two hours. Each month explores a different topic at both the adult's and children's level thereby giving the family a common frame of reference for ongoing conversation. Sessions begin in September and go through June. (10 months)

Typical session

- Gathering time to present that month's theme.
- Teaching time for adults and children to learn about the topic in age-appropriate ways. Babysitting is provided for children Kindergarten age and younger.
- Family activity time for parents and children to re-gather and experience the theme together
- Closing time for prayer and sending forth ritual.
- "Live-It Kit!"s are sent home with families to use during the month. The various activities, prayers, games, etc. contained in the kits help extend the theme of the monthly session.

Throughout the year, parents take on the responsibility of using **grade level text books** at home with their children and are given guidance so they become comfortable with the advantage of sharing/learning faith in a family setting. If you decide to register for *Faith Weaving*, there is a required orientation meeting for parents before the opening session in the fall.

Special Circumstances:

The Religious Education program also serves children and families with special circumstances. Please make an appointment with Regina Thibeau, Director of Religious Education to discuss the best fit. (847) 362-5797 x277

- **Christian Initiation for Children (CIC)** is a process which welcomes non-baptized children ages 8+ into the Catholic Church and prepares them to receive the sacraments. CIC also welcomes children baptized in a church other than Catholic or who have been baptized but not catechized and want to become Catholic.
- **Sacrament Preparation Classes** for children ages 3+ needing preparation for Baptism, children in grade 3+ needing preparation for First Eucharist and teens in High School seeking Confirmation.
- **SPRED** welcomes Friends from 6 years through adulthood with developmental and intellectual challenges and other special needs into full participation among our faith community. Contact John Brodarick, SPRED Chairperson, (847) 362-6787, brodarick727@comcast.net.
- **Adult Confirmation Classes** Contact Catherine Sims, Director of Faith Formation, (847) 990-1238.