

Faith Formation Programs For Children, Youth and Families

Within the Church's mission of evangelization, catechesis (faith formation) promotes and matures initial conversion, educates persons in the faith, and incorporates them into the life of the Christian community.

(United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: National Directory for Catechesis, 2005)

At Peace of Christ Parish, we offer a variety of Christian formation and spiritual growth opportunities for people of all ages. Our Family Faith Program is designed for busy families whose children are currently attending public schools from PreK 4 to Grade 12. The Diocese of Rochester requires children to attend 30 hours of catechesis yearly.

Participation in the program means a commitment to both parts of the program: FAMILY GATHERINGS and ONGOING CATECHESIS whether Monday Traditional Classes, Home Study or the Summer Session.

OUR MISSION

The Faith Formation (Religious Education) Program of Peace of Christ Parish, inspired by the love of Jesus Christ, is committed to building a strong Foundation of Faith for children, youth and adults in the parish. We accomplish this by offering meaningful prayer, devotional, sacramental and liturgical opportunities to deepen and strengthen their faith experience.

OUR GOALS

- ◆ Bring about in our children a deeper knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and a growing faith in Him
- ◆ Prepare the children to receive the sacraments
- ◆ Prepare the non-baptized children and youth to be received into the Catholic Church through the RCIA process
- ◆ Foster and enhance a cooperative effort between the parents and catechists in the children's faith formation
- ◆ RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is adapted for children of catechetical ages (age 7 and up who have not been baptized) and is the normative way for children and youth to be initiated into the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Rochester. For more information, contact Melissa Mang, Director of Faith Formation at: Melissa.Mang@dor.org or by calling (585)288-5000 ext. 121

MONDAY EVENING CLASSES

These traditional classes take place on Monday evenings from 6:15 — 7:45 pm in the school at St. James. The dates are listed below: **September 10 & 24, October 1 & 29, November 5 & 26, December 3, January 7 & 28, February 4, March 11 & 25, April 8, and May 6**

HOME STUDY

This option supports the belief that the family is the Domestic Church where parents/guardians are the primary formers of faith in their children. The Home Study option allows parents/guardians to work at their own pace with their child throughout the year. An age-appropriate textbook will be provided for each child, along with material that helps parent/guardians in teaching multiple children of different ages within the same household. Parents/guardians are provided with a training session and ongoing support which includes a parent/guardian meeting in the fall for material distribution and training, as well as additional opportunities for community connection and student accountability.

Parent/Youth Meeting and Training Session
Monday, September 25th, 6:30—7:30 pm
St. James Church Hall



FAMILY GATHERINGS

These gatherings are in integral part of the Religious Education Process. It involves families enrolled in the Monday Evening Classes and the Summer Session. It is an opportunity for families to gather for a meal and to participate in Family Learning Experience. The dates are: **October 15, December 17, February 25, and April 29.**

Call to sign up for this pizza dinner.

SUMMER SESSION

Children and youth PreK 4 — Grade 9 spend a week with us during the month of July. It is a time to learn on a deeper level the teachings of the Catholic Faith. Each year, a pillar of our diocesan religious standards are explored through use of a spiral curriculum. In this way, children across all grade levels explore the same faith topics, but with age-appropriate lessons and materials.

In addition, our catechists use only the most engaging, effective resources to explore these topics with your children, such as the Alive in Christ program by Our Sunday Visitor; the Catholic Handbook for Youth from St. Mary's Press for youth in Grades 6-8; and the Catholic Faith Handbook for teens in Grades 9-12. Children and youth who attend this session do not need to attend the Monday Evening Classes. Please note: if your child attends our Summer Session, he/she receives 25 hours of catechesis towards the required 30 hours of yearly faith formation. Families are expected to attend all four family gatherings that are held throughout the school year.

SUMMER SESSION 2018
St. James School

July 9 — July 13
9:00 AM—3:00 PM

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The liturgical life of the Church revolves around the sacraments, with the Eucharist at the center. "The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church," by which divine life is given to us and celebrated.

RECONCILIATION

In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, also called confession, we meet the Lord, who wants to grant forgiveness and the grace to live a renewed life in him. In this sacrament, he prepares us to receive him free from serious sin, with a lively faith, earnest hope, and sacrificial love in the Eucharist.

Diocesan policy mandates that children must first receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.



Parent/Child Information Meeting
Saturday, September 29, 9—10 am
St. James Church Hall

At this time, a schedule and workbooks (fee is \$25) will be distributed for both children and parents. See enclosed brochure for more information.

FIRST COMMUNION

In our Catholic faith, the Most Holy Eucharist is our greatest blessing from Jesus Himself. This Sacrament is the source and summit of the Christian life. (Lumen Gentium, no.11). Preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Communion begins in the spring.



Parent/Child Information Meeting
Saturday, January 26, 2019, 9—10 am
St. James Church Hall

At this time, a scheduled and workbooks (fee is \$25) will be distributed for both children and parents. See enclosed brochure for more information.

CONFIRMATION

There will be an informational parent/youth meeting for any youth entering Grades 8 and above (Year 1) as well as Year 2 Confirmation Candidates interested in preparing for Confirmation.



Saturday, September 29, 10—11 am
St. James Church Hall

At this time, you will gain an overview of the process and topics explored during this two-year program. See enclosed brochure for additional information.

According to Diocesan guidelines, a child should have completed a year of Religious Education, either in a parish program, or a Catholic school, and be currently enrolled in a program to prepare to receive a sacrament. A total of 30 hours/year of catechesis is required for all children and adolescents in Gr. K—12.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUPS

- **Junior High Youth Group:** Our program for middle-school/junior high catechesis (youth in Grades 6-8) integrates all of the 8 Components of a comprehensive Youth Ministry as outlined in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: *Renewing the Vision*, plan for youth ministry including: advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelization, justice and service, leadership development, pastoral care and prayer/worship. The program for youth utilizes two primary texts: *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers*, Second Edition and the *Catholic Youth Bible*, both by St. Mary's Press. The themes explored during these three years are the Old Testament, the New Testament and Church History/the Holy Spirit.
- **Senior High Youth Group:** This also integrates the ideals of the USCCB's *Renewing the Spirit* and is supported by two primary texts; *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Teens* and the *Breakthrough Bible*, both by St. Mary's Press. Additionally, youth explore the YOUCAT to find answers to their questions about their lives and our faith. The focus during these four years is on putting our faith into action through discipleship/Catholic Social Teachings.

The dates are listed below:

**September 10, September 24,
October 1, October 29,
November 5, November 26,
December 3,
January 7, January 28,
February 4,
March 11, March 25,
April 8,
May 6**

ADDITIONAL FAITH FORMATION ACTIVITIES

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

PandaMania



Where God is Wild About You!

Join us for exciting adventures for PreK 4 to Grade 5! Youth entering Grade 6 and above are invited to be helpers!

**Monday, July 23 — Friday, July 27
9 AM — Noon
St. James School**

YOUNG ADULT FAITH GROUP

Our Young Adult Faith Group is for young people ages 19-39 who are single or married, divorced or widowed, in college, working, unemployed, etc. The purpose of this group is to:

- Connect young adults with Jesus Christ through spiritual formation/direction, religious education/formation, and vocational discernment;
- Connect young adults to the Church through evangelizing outreach, formation of the faith community, and pastoral care;
- Connect young adults with the mission of the Church in the world through forming a Christian conscience, education and developing leaders for the present and future;
- Connect young adults with a peer community through developing peer leadership and identifying a young adult team for the purpose of forming faith communities of peers.

If you are interested in learning more about our young adult group, please contact Jimmy Piper, our Young Adult Faith Director at jimmypiper@gmail.com, or by calling (585)267-6041.

becoming a
catechist

It is through caring, sharing and praying that our community has grown in love and support of one another. This is especially true of our parish religious education programs. The success of our parish religious education program depends on the dedicated individuals in our parish willing to share their time, talents and faith with the adults and the future church, our parish children. We encourage all our parishioners, as well as parents of children in our programs to help out in some way. We are always in need of catechists, classroom aides, substitute teachers, and safety monitors. Please consider volunteering as a catechist in our Children's Liturgy of the Word program or as a catechist in our Adult and Youth Faith Formation programs.

Below are areas where you can help:

- * Catechist Grades K-5;
- * Catechists Grades 6-12;
- * Adult Faith Formation Catechist;
- * Children's Liturgy of the Word Catechist;
- * Substitute Catechist;
- * Adult, Parent & Teen Classroom Aides ~ Grades K-5;
- * Safety Monitor

If you have any questions contact Melissa Mang, Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry at (585)288-5000, ext. 121 or by email at melissa.mang@dor.org. I'm looking forward to meeting you!



PEACE of CHRIST PARISH
ST. AMBROSE • ST. JAMES • ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

**25 Empire Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14609**

**Director Catechetical Programs and
Youth Ministry
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Faith Formation Opportunities 2018-2019



"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life"
John 3:16

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