

Our Lady of the Lake Faith Formation for Children & Youth

Religious Education Classes - General Information

We offer a variety of Religious Education classes for children and youth that are 3 years old through 12th grade to help parents fulfill their responsibility of training them in the practice of our Catholic faith and the keeping of God's commandments. It is the expectation of the Church that we continue to grow in faith throughout our lives. We offer a quality program at various times, see below, to find the classes that best meet your family's needs.

Class Times

Day	Time	Grades	Location	Coordinator
Sunday	9a.m. and 11a.m.	3yr-K	Our Lady of the Lake	Debbie Kraus
Sunday	6:30-8:00 p.m.	6 th -12 th	Our Lady of the Lake	Sue Dill
Tuesday	6:30-8:00 p.m.	K-5 th	Our Lady of the Lake	Debbie Kraus
Wednesday	4:30-6:00 p.m.	3yr-5 th	Our Lady of the Lake	Mary Ann Hensley
Wednesday	6:30-8:00 p.m.	3yr-8 th	Corpus Christi Center	Debbie Kraus/Sue Dill

Religious Education classes, in addition to class discussions and lessons, may include large group prayer services, opportunities for service, and other activities to encourage participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community and to support personal spiritual growth.

Curriculum Overview

Preschool - 3 year olds

Lively Bible Lessons for Preschoolers combines active learning and colorful art projects. The children begin to learn about themselves, others, their faith, and celebrations using their senses of hearing, seeing, and feeling.

Preschool - 4 year olds

Our Bible Story program includes a rich and fascinating collection of Old Testament stories specially adapted for the young child. These stories help children understand that God's gift of love was with our faith ancestors just as it is with us today. Through *Our Bible Story*, children come to know God, a God in whom they can put their trust and with whom they can grow in love and friendship.

Grades Kindergarten-5

Grades K-5 use the *We Believe* curriculum by Sadlier. Kindergarten: God Made the World, Grade 1: God Loves Us, Grade 2: Jesus Shares God's Life, Grade 3: We are the Church, Grade 4: God's Law Guides Us, Grade 5: We Meet Jesus in the Sacraments. For specific information and home activities go to www.webelieveweb.com or contact the appropriate coordinator, listed above.

Grade 6

The Discovering Program by Zanzig is a religious education program that addresses real-life teen issues and different learning styles. This comprehensive set of mini-courses focuses on relationship building, active student participation, and sound religious principles. Grade 6 courses are: Exploring the Bible, Exploring the Story of Israel, Being Catholic, and Celebrating the Eucharist.

Grade 7

Catholic Connections by St. Mary's Press, a dynamic Faith Formation program that introduces Catholic young adolescents to Jesus Christ in a new way and inspires them to follow Him, will be taught during the first half of the year. Fostering the faith of young adolescents involves helping them to make connections between the Catholic faith and everyday life. It also means helping young people to strengthen their connection to the faith community. Catholic Connections aims to strengthen the teen's Catholic identity and inspire them to participate more fully in the Church's mission. Grade 7 courses are: Sacraments, Prayer, Morality and Justice. The second half of the year's lessons will come from *Confirmed in a Faithful Community* by Zanzig, a comprehensive program with a solid grounding in the initiation theology of the RCIA with age-appropriate goals and content and a deep commitment to active learning. Topics covered are Catholic tradition and its remarkably rich beliefs and practices, "the basics" of Catholic Christianity and how Catholics understand and celebrate those basics, the Bible, prayer, and key church teachings.

Grade 8

The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, by St. Mary's Press, an understandable and down-to-earth guide to all things Catholic, gives concise information about the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church. Also used will be *The R.O.C. (Rite of Confirmation) Confirmation Series*, by LifeTeen, a comprehensive Catholic model of preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation and *Confirmed in the Spirit*, by Loyola Press, with its goal of deepening the faith life within the Confirmandi through an awareness of the special strength they will receive in Confirmation to live the Christian life and to witness to Christ.

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Led by trained peers and adult mentors, high school students will all gather together on **Sunday nights** for a variety of up-to-date and seasonal topics and programs taken from *Youth Ministry Access*. All lessons are designed utilizing the latest youth ministry research conducted by the Center for Ministry Development and published in *Effective Practices for Dynamic Youth Ministry* (Saint Mary's Press). This program seeks to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today, to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community, and to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

For more specific curriculum information, please contact the Office of Faith Formation at 616-399-1062.

Faith Formation 2011-2012

Program Basics and Sacramental Preparation Information

Attention Parents of First and Seventh Grade Students

Diocesan guidelines for sacramental preparation necessitate that “formal instruction...begin by the first grade and continue throughout the child’s school years.” This means that children preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and/or Communion in second grade need to have attended religious education classes beginning in first grade or before. The same is true for Confirmation Preparation; those planning to be confirmed in the eighth grade need to have attended religious education classes beginning in seventh grade or before. **There will be a Fee of \$75 for students who have missed 1st or 7th grade as they will need to be brought up to date on the missed year’s preparations. The fee will be waived for students who have attended the year before the sacrament year.**

First Reconciliation and First Communion

First Reconciliation and First Communion Preparation occurs in grades 1 and 2. There is a Sacramental Preparation Meeting in the fall. **Parents of 2nd grade students should plan to attend one of these meetings.** All First Reconciliation and First Communion students should be currently enrolled in and regularly attending religious education classes or Corpus Christi Catholic School. In addition to the home, preparation occurs within the classroom and at special events, such as the Communion Reflection Day.

Christian Initiation for Baptism, Reconciliation and/or Communion (CYI)

Students that are older than 2nd grade that have not received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and/or Communion may enter the Children and Youth Initiation Program (CYI) to prepare them to receive these sacraments. This program follows the RCIA process and includes parent involvement. All students must be currently enrolled in and regularly attending classes for the full school year in order to be enrolled in the preparation program. **Parents should attend the Meeting for All Sacramental Preparation Programs. Please be sure to correctly mark the needs of your children on their registration form.**

Confirmation

Confirmation Preparation occurs in the 7th and 8th grades at Our Lady of the Lake Parish. All students should be currently enrolled in and regularly attending religious education classes or attending a Catholic school. In addition to class, the two-year preparation includes service, worship, retreats, and ministry and leadership opportunities; see Curriculum information for religious education class content. Confirmation will be celebrated in the spring of the 8th grade year. There will be a Youth Ministry and Sacramental Preparation meeting in late September; **parents of 7th & 8th grade students should plan to attend one of these meetings.** A Sponsor/Confirmandi meeting will be held in early November; **8th grade students and their sponsors should plan to attend on the night they are in class.** Once the Confirmation date is set by the diocese, a rehearsal will be scheduled. For further information about preparation for Confirmation, contact Mary Murphy, Director of Youth Ministry.

Basics In The Faith

Basics in the Faith classes are offered for anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. Basics classes are recommended for parents of children preparing for infant Baptism or Confirmation and are required for parents of Children Youth Initiation (CYI) children (age 8 and up) and for those receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. This is a one-time only requirement at Our Lady of the Lake Parish. Class topics are *God and Scripture, Church History, Sacraments, Prayer, and Conscience and Morality.* Please plan to attend, especially if you have a child within two years of receiving a sacrament of initiation.

Special Needs:

Our program is open to all students, regardless of physical, emotional or developmental concerns. Please make note of these needs on your registration form. Catechists will be informed at the training sessions and will be asked to speak with parents regarding details as they pertain to classroom involvement. In cases of exceptional need, we will tailor the faith formation to the child’s abilities. If your child has severe allergies that affect his/her time in the classroom, you will need to have the child’s physician fill out the **Medical Action Form** and return that at the time of registration.

Non-Parishioner Enrollment

We understand that for various reasons it could be beneficial for non-parishioners to participate in our Faith Formation Programs. Registration at Our Lady of the Lake is required and acknowledgement from your home-parish may be needed. See the Non-Parishioner Registration Information sheet, available in the office, for further information.

Home School Religious Education – Not an option for students in grades 2 and 8

The Office of Faith Formation aims to support parents as the primary catechists of children. It is our goal to support parents by providing the best opportunity for each child. While we would like to have all students involved in a classroom setting where they have the opportunity to bond with the faithful of their age group, we understand that this is not possible for all families. We will assist with materials for those who have registered in our paid home school program when we are unable to meet those needs within the classroom. No child may participate in the parish celebration of First Communion or Confirmation unless they are enrolled in the Faith Formation Classes as this is a major component in their preparation as part of the community in which they will be celebrating the sacraments.

Financial Assistance

Children and youth at Our Lady of the Lake Parish will not be denied Religious Education classes due to financial reasons. Please contact us and let us know if you would like to volunteer weekly in our program to cover the cost of registration. We also can set up a payment plan to meet the needs of your family.