



Saint Joseph Community Children's Programs

Information Sheet –2010-2011

General Information

St Joseph Community offers several opportunities to help parents in your efforts to raise your children in our Catholic faith:

- *Faith Formation classes* for children Pre-Kindergarten (4 years old by September) through 8th Grade. Grades 1 through 8 are designed for children not attending Catholic schools. Registration is required.
- *Children's Liturgy of the Word* for children 5 through 10, to hear the gospel message in child terms. No registration required.
- *Sacramental Preparation* for older children (7+) who have never been baptized or received Eucharist. Registration is required.
- Youth Ministry offers faith formation as well as Confirmation preparation for high school students; contact Sarelle McCoard at 326-2390.

All our catechists and helpers are volunteers who share their time and faith with our children, and are provided with training, resources and support. **Each family is asked to give at least four hours of service during the year in any of our Faith Formation programs.** Positions include catechist and co-catechist; classroom aide; childcare; Children's Liturgy leader, musician, or helper; and Learning Center supervisor. Older siblings can also help; service hours may be available. All adult volunteers are required to attend a ninety-minute "safe environment for children" training, either at a live workshop or online at www.shieldthevulnerable.org. For more information see the Volunteer Form or contact the Director of Faith Formation.

Participation in Sunday liturgy is an essential part of our Faith, so families are strongly urged to attend Mass together. ***Please note our new Mass schedule:*** Saturday Vigil at 5:00pm and Sunday at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30am and 7:00pm. Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered during the 9:30am Mass most Sundays.

Faith Formation Classes:

Classes for **pre-Kindergarten through Junior High are on Sunday mornings 10:45 – 11:45** in the St. Joseph Elementary School. (***Note new start time.***) Classes meet from mid-September until the end of May; a calendar is provided during the parent orientation meeting in September. Our children's safety is paramount; they must be signed into and out of class each week by a parent or other authorized person.

Tuition for 2010-2011 is \$80 for the first child, and \$45 for each additional child in a family. (An early registration discount of \$10 per child applies to registrations submitted and paid before July 31.) In addition, there is a Sacrament Preparation fee of \$15 for each child in Grade 2/Second Year Sacrament Preparation (i.e. Grade 2 fee is \$95, or \$85 if paid before July 31). Grants and payment plans are available.

Enrollments are accepted through September, although late registrations may be possible. Families should be registered members of our Parish; parish registration forms are available at the Parish Office or on our parish website.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

At the 9:30 am Mass, interested children are dismissed to go with volunteers to share the Liturgy of the Word. They participate in the Gospel, special homily, songs, and activities, and then return to their parents to participate in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. There is no need to register and no fee. Children must be old enough to sit quietly with others and participate in the activities (generally kindergarten through 5th grade). Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place most Sundays with occasional breaks.

Sacrament Preparation

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation is generally a two-year process starting at age 6 (first grade). First grade introduces prayer, church, community, faith and other important aspects of Catholicism, and second grade concentrates on Reconciliation and Eucharist. *Children in third grade or older* attend a separate Sacrament Preparation class during their second year of preparation, in addition to their age-appropriate class. During the second year parents/guardians attend several parent meetings and also join their children at special preparation retreats. Please refer to the "Parish/Family Sacramental Program" brochure for more information. A copy of the Baptismal Certificate must be provided.

Baptism for children younger than Grade 2 is usually considered "infant Baptism;" information and registration is available from the Parish Office or on the parish website under "Sacraments." Children in second grade or older participate in the *Rite of Christian Initiation* modified for children, in addition to their age-appropriate classes. This is generally a two-year process; please call for more information.

Service Hours

Older children and teens are encouraged to participate in our programs as Program Aides. Service hours can be awarded. St. Joseph Elementary School parents may receive service hours for serving as catechists or CLW presenters. Contact the Faith Formation Director for further information.

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