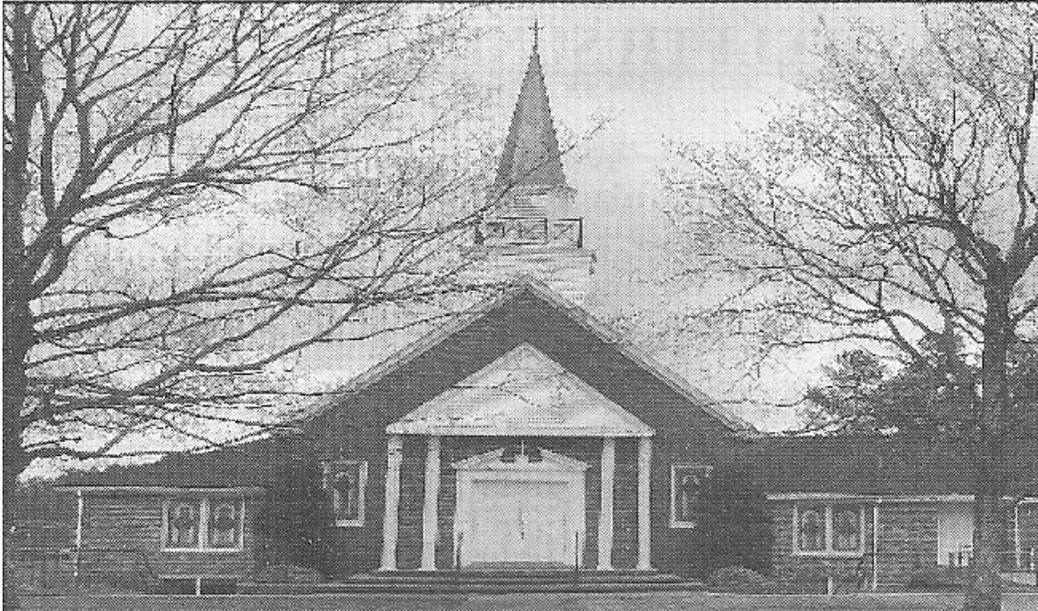


St. Christopher's C.C.D. Program
(Confraternity of Christian Doctrine)



Sunday and Holy Day Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm

Sundays: 8:30 and 11:00 am

Holy Days: as announced in the bulletin

CLASSES: Sundays at 9:40 AM

St. Christopher's C.C.D. Program (C)onfraternity of (C)hristian (D)octrine)



The mission of the C.C.D. Program of St. Christopher's Parish is to assist parents in the religious, moral, and spiritual formation of their children so that they come to know Christ intimately and serve His Church with courage. From the wisdom of Church Teaching, we fully understand that parents are the primary (most important) educators of their children, forming them by word and example. This includes attending Mass weekly together as a family with frequent Confession, as well as praying regularly with their children. Research shows that it is the active religious faith life of the family that is of the utmost importance in helping a child to develop a lasting faith. No C.C.D. program can ever replace that.

There are four keys that strongly impact faith development in the family: 1) caring conversations, listening to one another and discussing spiritual things; 2) family devotions, such as the rosary and saints; 3) family rituals, such as blessings, religious symbols prominently honored in the home, and prayers passed from one generation to the next; 4) family service to the Church and community. These keys are essential and what takes place in the C.C.D. Program is designed to enhance that. This is why your family support, involvement and cooperation are essential to the religious formation of your children.

Regular Mass attendance as a family and a genuine interest in your child's progress serve as great sources of support and encouragement. The Church teaches that missing Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation is a mortal sin; consequently our students are taught in the classroom that this is a mortal sin. They are taught that the Eucharist is central to our faith life, that we are spiritually strengthened by it, and that we need it to grow more strongly connected to Christ. It is very damaging to children when they are told they are breaking their relationship with God by not attending Mass and then their parents do not regularly bring them to Mass. This is called counter-witnessing or de-catechizing. It confuses children and they do not know what to believe. Children who learn about prayer must have the opportunity to pray with their family and study the Scriptures together at home to savor the sweetness. It is also important that parents share their own faith, assisting the child in learning required prayers, and discussing class sessions to help to deepen the child's religious education experience and strengthen the Church/family relationship.

Our parish catechists support parents and students by providing quality religious education in a nurturing, faith-filled environment. Parents assist this program by

understanding and following the C.C.D. Program policies (listed further below). Through the cooperative effort of parents, catechists, and students, our children will grow in their love for God and knowledge of their Catholic faith, develop their God-given gifts and talents, and live as contributing, respectable young people through their commitment to service as Catholic Christians in a world increasingly in need of God.

Curriculum

Please note that completion of 7th and 8th grade are required to be able to receive Confirmation.

Pflaume Gospel Weeklies

Solid formation based on the Sunday Gospel that teaches the important doctrines of our Catholic Faith over the space of the school year. It is high-interest material that is age appropriate. Parent involvement is crucial as parents are the primary teachers of the faith for their children.

Please review what your child/children bring home and supplement it with prayer and other activities, etc.

Promise (Grades K-1) Good News

(Grade -3) Venture (Grades 4-6)

Visions and pre-Confirmation

preparation. (Grade 7) **There are also**

supplementary activities online from

which to choose. Simply go to:

<http://www.pflaum.com/forms/signup>

[_fampages.php](http://www.pflaum.com/forms/signup_fampages.php) Parents must sign up

first online and this is free.



***2nd Grade** is an extensive and special preparation for **First Communion and Confession.**

8th Grade

This class is based on the award-winning new program, CHOSEN. This program takes young people on a journey through the entire Catholic faith in all its richness and vitality. Our 8th graders will be captivated by the story, from Creation all the way through salvation history, and they will come to see how the sacraments, prayer, and discipleship are the keys to a happy life. Overall, this will call our students to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and prepare them to more fully be prepared for Confirmation. It is based on the RCIA model with a strong emphasis on the Catechism and Scripture. All of this will be a fast-paced program utilizing video, other materials, and will involve parents and sponsors in a more meaningful way that will enrich the faith lives of all.

CCD Program Policies

Catechism classes are held on Sundays between the 8:30 AM and the 11:00 AM Masses. Each class begins promptly at 9:40 AM. Please ensure that your children arrive on time to avoid disruption to the class. Because we have experienced disruption caused by tardy students in several classes, any student who is tardy three times will be sent to our director of Academics and the three tardies will be counted as an unexcused absence. If the tardy behavior continues, a meeting with parents will be called for.

Regular attendance (no more than three excused absences), is very important and strongly encouraged so that our students may receive the full benefit of their religious education time. The student, with the parents' help, will be required to make up the missed lessons. Our generous and gracious teachers will provide an assignment for any class missed. The student then has one week to complete the assignment and hand it in to the teacher. Assignments must be completed on time.

Absence due to illness, accident or death of a family member may be considered excused but all class lessons must be completed and turned in on time. Lesson assignments must be obtained from the teacher. Two or more consecutive absences for illness will require a doctor's note. Parents with particular problems/situations need to discuss this with Mrs. Kathy Tucker. Parents of students with more than three unexcused absences will be required to meet with Mrs. Kathy Tucker (615-446-8281).

Progress Reports will be distributed in January and May. They will report attendance, conduct, and understanding of content, general interest, attitude, class participation, completion of assignments, and the student's grade average. Parents or guardians are asked to review the report and discuss it with their child. Comments or questions are welcome. This gives parents & teachers an opportunity to work together for the student's spiritual benefit. Parents or guardians must sign the Progress Report in January and have the student return it to the teacher at the next class. The report cards distributed at the end of the program year are for your keeping. Please heed any comments or instructions your child's Catechist writes to you; it will assist your child in moving on to the next level.

As a reflection of St. Christopher's Mission Statement (found on the front of our weekly bulletin), parents, students, teachers and staff are called by God to become a believing, loving, caring and welcoming Catholic community. We commit ourselves personally and collectively to study the Word of God and proclaim the Good News to the world. To carry out this mission within the context of C.C.D. in an efficient manner, students and teachers are expected to arrive on time to class. We ask parents of our younger students to personally escort their children to the bathroom BEFORE class, as

this will help to avoid interruptions during class. Students are expected to participate in all classroom activities and discussion, and to complete any take-home assignments within the time limit assigned. They are expected to show respect and care for other students, instructors, guests and staff.

Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated in the classroom as this hinders the learning of all students. Catechists will make every attempt to handle discipline issues within the classroom. If behavior continues or incidents increase, the following policy will be followed:

Dismissal from classroom: Student is sent to the coordinator; communication with parent(s) and a parish DRE is pursued immediately. If improper behavior continues, the student will be dismissed from the program and home study materials will be provided to the parents so that the student may continue a course of study. We will stand ready to help parents in this regard and such students may be re-registered for classes the next academic year if all conditions listed upon leaving are met.

St. Christopher's Parish programs are run in cooperation with the Nashville Diocesan Safe Environment policies as they relate to creating and maintaining a safe environment for our children and young people.

Further C.C.D. Program information can be found online on the Church website under RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

We ask all parents, teachers and staff to pray regularly for our CCD Program. Let us encourage one another to seek the help of the Holy Spirit for specific prayers and/or to pray the following:

The fruit of our religious education program is in your keeping, Oh Lord.

The work of our hearts and hands can organize and implement our classes and projects. But only you, O Holy One, can breathe into these efforts the enduring life of your Spirit. May our religious education program always be in You, of You, and for You.

Our Lady of Fatima, we also ask for your intercession. Pray with us and for us that God may grant us His help in meeting our obligations as a parish family, especially as we share and teach the Faith. May our example of devotion to you, the Mother of God, inspire us to greater sacrifices and greater efforts. Amen. St. Christopher, pray for us.