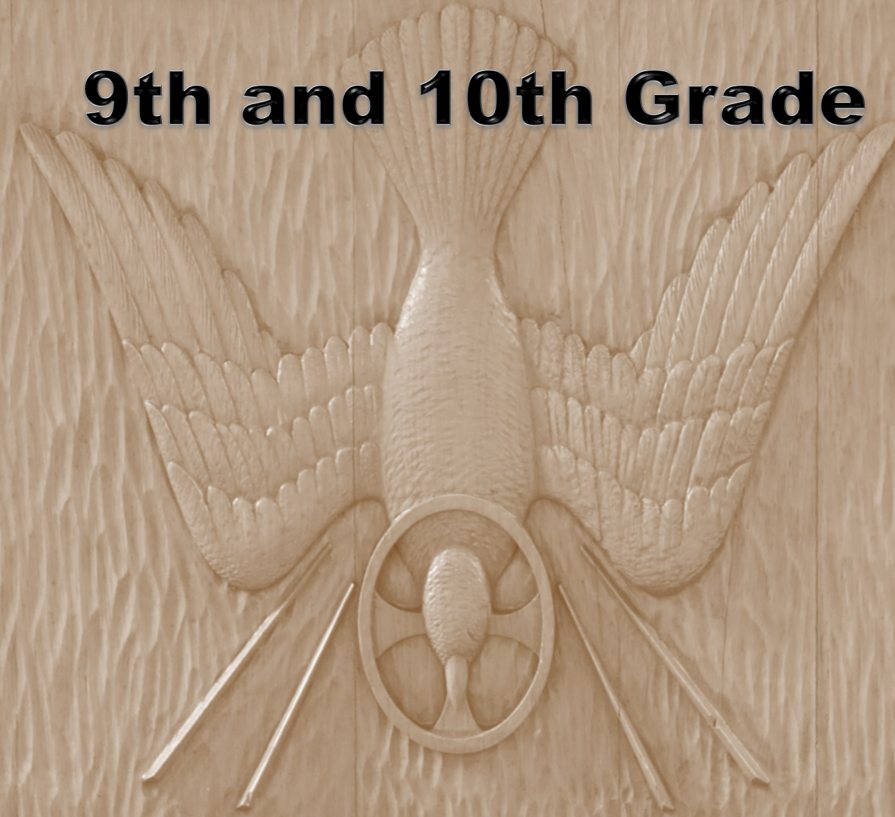


St. Mary Catholic Church

9th and 10th Grade



**Christian Formation
Handbook**

2023-2024

9th and 10th Grade Christian Formation Team

Pastor: Fr. Roman Stikel

Phone: (262) 694-6018

Fax: (262) 694-6048

Parish Address: 7307 40th Avenue | Kenosha WI 53142

Director of Youth and Adult Ministry:

Sandy Schwalbe | (262) 925-4157 | sschwalbe@stmarycatholic.org

Christian Formation Administrative Assistant:

Currently Open Position | (262) 925-4150

9th Grade High School Catechists:

Michelle Adler | dietcoke356@gmail.com

Airlea Lichtwalt | airlea6@yahoo.com

Aaron Lichtwalt | aaron.lichtwalt@gmail.com

10th Grade High School Catechists:

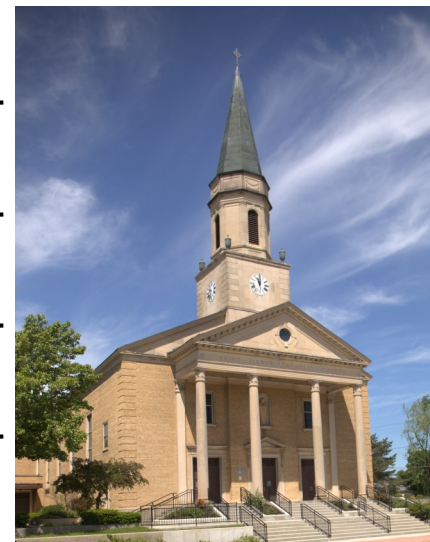
Leah Dickey | churchlady2002@gmail.com

Stephen Johnson | stephen.johnson1075@gmail.com

Christopher and Charlyne Straka | cstraka11@hotmail.com

A copy of this handbook can be found on our parish website at www.stmarycatholic.org.

NOTES

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High School Christian Formation

Welcome. In this booklet, you will find a brief description of the Christian Formation program at St. Mary Catholic Church, class schedules, yearly Christian Formation requirements, policies and procedures and more.

Program Description

CHOSEN | The Journey toward Confirmation | (Stated in the Parent Guide)

CHOSEN will lead your teen on a journey through the Catholic Faith in all its richness and vitality. Over the course of twenty-four engaging lessons, your son or daughter will not only learn about the Faith, but will be invited to experience a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, using a combination of videos, workbook material and group discussions. The goal of the **CHOSEN** program is to win over the hearts of youth at this critical time in their lives and to keep them firmly planted in the faith community of the Church. ***The program is about learning our Catholic Faith and teaching us more about growing our love for God and becoming Disciples of Christ.***

The video presentations in this program feature some of the top youth ministers in the Church today. They have been filmed on location throughout the country and internationally. A dynamic and engaging workbook is used throughout the program and contains at home pages and activities that are an essential part of the **CHOSEN** learning experience. As parents of the candidates, you play an essential role in guiding your child through this process. See Parents Guide on the next page. Also note on page 10 two additional books used in the **CHOSEN** program.

ALTARATION is also a part of the 9th Grade Program. Mass attendance is a vital part of your teen's journey to Confirmation and beyond and **ALTARATION** is an informative program about the Mass. See page 11 for more information.

Policies and Procedures

Mass Attendance | Students are required to attend Mass and participate in the Liturgy each weekend. By attending and participating as a family in the Eucharistic celebration, parents help guide their student to grow in his/her faith.

Scheduled Classes | Classes follow the 10:30am Mass on Sundays from 11:30am – 12:45pm. *Students are encouraged to attend the 10:30am Mass prior to the session start time and then go directly to the school.* Classes will promptly begin at 11:30am. ***See pages 8 and 9 for the 9th and 10th Grade schedule.***

Materials | ***Teens are expected to be prepared for class, by bringing their CHOSEN Workbook, their Bible, and their willingness to listen and participate during class.*** Bibles are handed out in 6th grade or the first year that a student begins the High School Christian Formation Program. Teens receive their CHOSEN Workbook in the 9th Grade or as a new student to the High School program in 10th or 11th Grade. ***The workbook is used for all three years of the High School program.*** If the teen has not brought their workbook and or bible for 2 weeks in a row, they will be asked to repurchase them. The cost to replace a Workbook is \$21. Cost to replace a bible is \$30.

Classroom Behavior | It is expected that all teens will conduct themselves as God would expect them to act. It is important to work together for the common good in creating an effective learning environment. All youth have the responsibility to engage in behavior that is in the best interest of themselves, their peers and the catechist. Please remember that our catechists are volunteers. They deserve respect and cooperation. At the same time, each student deserves respect, understanding and a classroom conducive to learning. Mutual respect is expected.

Policies and Procedures continued...

Program | Event Fees | One half of the total program fee is due upon registration, with the balance due by February of the following year. Special event fees are due upon registration. Families with special financial circumstances or needs should contact the Director. All students will have access to our faith formation program.

Permission Slip Policy | A yearly General Permission Slip should be filled out to cover any event taking place outside of the church campus. If the event is off church property, students are required to have this general permission slip to attend. General Permission Slip forms can be downloaded from our church website at www.stmarycatholic.org.

Group | Individual Pictures and Release of Phone Numbers | Throughout the program year, photographs of the youth participating in various events may be taken. Some of these photographs may be used in the bulletin, on fliers or bulletin boards, the parish website, or other media, etc. In addition, requests may be made from St. Mary committee chairpersons or other volunteer coordinators for the names and phone numbers of teens, and families to help in many parish programs and/or events. *Please be sure to fill this portion in on the registration form.*

Class Cancellation | On Sundays when the weather is not safe for traveling, or if we must cancel classes for any reason, families will be informed via a ROBO call. When possible, a decision to cancel classes due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, will be made by 5:00pm the Saturday evening prior to classes. You must always use your best judgment. In the event that classes are not cancelled, and you feel it is not safe to attend, please call the Director of Youth Ministry to inform her that your student will not be at class. Your safety and the safety of our youth is always our primary concern.


Open Door | Parent Policy: Parents are invited to visit their student's class. If you wish to sit-in on a class, please let the Director and the catechist know one week prior to the beginning of the class you wish to attend.

Electronic Devices: Upon arriving on the building's grounds for any activity, whether it is regular religious education class, retreats, or other youth activities, cell phones must be out of sight during this time unless the Catechists or event leader asks that they take them out.

Service Hours: Students are required to earn **ten (10)** hours of service during each of their three years in the program for a total of **thirty (30)** hours of service by the time they are Confirmed. Service hours can be in the categories of Family, Church, and Community.

Students are required to fill out an **Individual Service Project form** (found in classrooms, High School office and on our parish website) and turn it into the Christian Formation Office to have their hours recorded. Students are advised to turn in the form immediately after performing the service hours, as we use the form to log service hours. Forms can be turned in via mail, email or before or after class by placing them in the "in bin" found in each classroom and outside the High School Office in the school. ***Without this form, service hours cannot be accurately logged.*** It is always a good idea to keep a copy for your records. Please send the form to the attention of Christian Formation Assistant. See pages 12 and 13 for additional information.

Attendance or Leaving Class Early: ***Attendance to all classes is expected.*** All Religious Education classes must be attended, with serious family difficulties being the only exception. Exceptions should be discussed with the Director prior to missing class. No other activities - sports or leisure - should be viewed as more important. Youth learn their priorities from the example of adults. Please see Page 14 for guidelines on how to complete make up work. **Please contact the Director via email or phone if a student requires an early dismissal to any class.** Students must also bring a note stating the time they need to leave, and present it to their Catechist prior to class.

<div>  <div> ST. MARY Catholic Church </div> </div> <div>2023-2024 Christian Formation Schedule</div>		
Date	9 th Grade Schedule	10 th Grade Schedule
	Begin with 10:30am Mass Class to follow in the school from 11:30am– 12:45pm unless noted otherwise	Begin with 10:30am Mass Class to follow in the school from 11:30am– 12:45pm unless noted otherwise
October 2023		
Sunday, October 1	REQUIRED Parent Teen Meeting 9:30am Bell Hall	No Parent/Teen Meeting Required for 10th Grade-ut feel free to join 9th Grades.
Sunday, October 8	OFF	OFF
Sunday, October 15 10:30am Opening Mass	ALTARATION 1 First Class	CHOSEN 5 First Class
Sunday, October 22	ALTARATION 2	CHOSEN 6
Sunday, October 29	ALTARATION 3	CHOSEN 7
November 2023		
Sunday, November 5	OFF	OFF
Sunday, November 12	ALTARATION 4	CHOSEN 8
Saturday, November 18	9th and 10th Grade RETREAT At St. Mary *9:00am-5:00pm	9th and 10th Grade RETREAT At St. Mary *9:00am-5:00pm
Sunday, November 26	THANKSGIVING OFF	THANKSGIVING OFF
December 2023		
Sunday, December 3	MOVIE 1:00pm — 3:30pm In the Church	MOVIE 1:00pm — 3:30pm In the Church
Sunday, December 10	ALTARATION 5	CHOSEN 9
Sundays December 17	SERVICE OPPORTUNITY Everyone, please volunteer for the Giving Circle this week in lieu of	SERVICE OPPORTUNITY Everyone, please volunteer for the Giving Circle this week in lieu of class.

17	teer for the Giving	Circle this week in lieu of class.	for the Giving	Circle this week in lieu of class.
Sunday, December 24	CHRISTMAS	OFF	CHRISTMAS	OFF
Sunday, December 31	HAPPY NEW YEAR	OFF	HAPPY NEW YEAR	OFF
January 2024				
Sunday, January 7	Circle of Grace	Location TBD	Circle of Grace	Location TBD
Sunday, January 14	OFF		OFF	
Sunday, January 21	CHOSEN 1		CHOSEN 10	
Sunday, January 28	CHOSEN 2		CHOSEN 11	
February 2024				
Sunday, February 4	CHOSEN 3		CHOSEN 12	
Sunday, February 11	OFF		OFF	
Sunday, February 18	CHOSEN 4		CHOSEN 13	
Sunday, February 25	Speaker Fr. Michael Courchaine	Church 1:00pm-2:00pm	Speaker Fr. Michael Courchaine	Church 1:00pm-2:00pm
March/April 2024				
Sunday, March 3	STATIONS OF THE CROSS & ADORATION	1:00pm-2:30pm in the Church	STATIONS OF THE CROSS & ADORATION	1:00pm-2:30pm in the Church
	PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND		PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND	
Sunday, March 10	OFF		OFF	
Sunday, March 17	CHOSEN 5 or Church Tour		CHOSEN 14	
Sunday, March 24	CHOSEN 5 or Church Tour		CHOSEN 16	
Sunday, March 31	EASTER SUNDAY OFF		EASTER SUNDAY OFF	
Sunday, April 7	CHOSEN 6		CHOSEN 17	
10:30am Closing Mass	Last Class		Last Class	
Schedule Subject to Change Indicates Blue Letter Day *Retreat Start Time approximate.				



PARENT'S GUIDE Parents/Guardians will have received this guide during the 9th/10th Grade Parent Meeting.

This guide not only instructs parents in their integral role with their child's Confirmation preparation, but is an opportunity to revisit and rekindle their own faith. It includes an overview of a parent's role, guidelines for supporting their teen's journey of faith, tips for talking with their child, and more. The "Conversation Starters" in this book are invaluable. Please use the schedule found on pages 8 and 9 for appropriate lessons.

Additional copies of this book are available for \$10.



SPONSOR'S GUIDE Your Teen's Sponsor will receive this handbook while attending the Sponsor/Teen Commitment Mass/Meeting during their (third year of the program) 11th Grade year.

The guide not only instructs the sponsor how to fulfill their role, but is an opportunity to revisit and rekindle their own faith. It includes an overview of a sponsor's role, conversation starters, top ten Catholic questions your candidate may approach you with, and more. Additional copies of this book are available for \$10.

STUDENT'S WORKBOOK

Students receive their own workbook during their first year of the three year program. **The CHOSEN Workbook should be brought to all Chosen classes for the three years in the program.** Students are also asked to bring their Bible to each class, as well. Online programming is also available free of charge.

Additional copies of this workbook are available for \$21.





Students are usually disengaged at Mass not because they don't care about God or don't want to know Him but because no one has ever connected the dots between the ritual and the relationship. **ALTARATION** acknowledges “the elephant in the sanctuary” as Mark Hart calls it, encouraging and challenging students to take another look – a deeper look – at the liturgy and all that heaven is doing here on earth through it.

9th Grade Students will be viewing all five modules about our Holy Mass using Ascension Press' **ALTARATION** Program. Each student will receive an **ALTARATION** Workbook to be used while in the classroom. Students are asked not to write in these workbooks. Ask them about the program and find out what they are learning about the Mass!

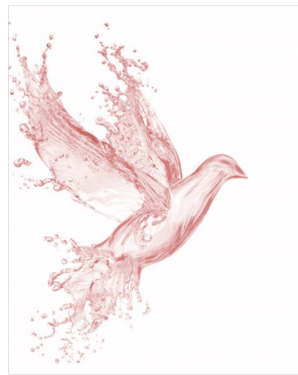
This Program is available for Parents (to view at home) who would also like to learn more about the Holy Mass. Please contact Sandy Schwalbe for more information.



Service Hours

As mentioned on page 7 of this handbook, Students are required to earn ten (10) hours of service during each of their three years in the program for a total of thirty (30) hours of service by the time they are Confirmed. Service hours can be in the categories of *Family, Church, and Community*. Below are ideas or examples of service hours.

- Attend Eucharistic Adoration | Spend some quiet time with Jesus | Sign in at church and fill out an Individual Service Project Form | See Page 16 or contact Sandy Schwalbe for more information.
- Music | Do you sing in your High School Choir or play an instrument in your High School band or orchestra? Have you ever thought about becoming a Cantor? Call the parish Music Director at (262) 925-4159 for more information.
- Become a Greeter for one of our three weekend Masses | This can be done individually or as a family. Please contact Emma Ponio at (262) 925-4160 or email at eponio@stmarycatholic.org for more information and/or to be placed on the Greeter Schedule.
- Become an Usher for one of our three weekend Masses. Please contact Sandy Schwalbe for more information and/or to be placed on the Schedule.
- Volunteer at your school as allowed.



- Events as they come up | Sandy Schwalbe will typically contact all families via email as needed. Watch for emails.
- Be creative! Try to make service hours a family event, if possible. If you are unsure about an activity qualifying as service hours, please contact Sandy Schwalbe. *Think Family, Church and Community!*
- College Boxes | Help pack college boxes for St. Mary students at college | Spring 2024 | Date and time TBD

Service Hours continued...

- Shalom Center | aka Soup Kitchen | Each first Thursday of the month, join us at the Shalom Center located at 4314 39th Avenue, Kenosha (enter at Door #4) from 4pm to 6:30pm. Students can earn service hours (and parents/guardians who are welcome) serving ready-made meals to Shalom Center clients and those in need from our community. The Shalom Center is the longest running meal program in the community, providing meals without missing a day, since 1982! You can be a part of the great program. Watch for sign up Genius links via email.



- Giving Circle | Dates and times of this



event will be available in November. Students can earn service hours by making Christmas a brighter time of the year for families in need in the Kenosha Community. This can be an Individual event, done with a group of friends, or by families. Volunteers choose and wrap already purchased gifts for families in need. Help will also be needed for set up and take down. Watch for a sign up genius link via email.

- Crossroads Care Center | Spend time participating in a variety of activities with Crossroads residents. This event will take place one Saturday a month, starting back up in January 2024. Watch for sign up Genius via email. Seeking an Adult Supervisor for this event. Contact Sandy Schwalbe if interested.



How to complete Make up assignments

Attendance to all scheduled classes is required, however, if a class is missed the students are required to make up their work. **Students should be “called in” as absent to Sandy Schwalbe at (262) 925-4157 or via email at sschwalbe@stmarycatholic.org prior to class time.** Absences will be passed on to the Catechists.

All completed make up assignments should be turned in during class time, emailed to svatter@stmarycatholic.org, or mailed to our parish office (Attn: Christian Formation Assistant) at St. Mary Catholic Church 7307 40th Avenue Kenosha, WI 53142.

- For **CHOSEN** LESSONS | Make up assignments for the CHOSEN program consists of watching the **CHOSEN** videos online (using the **CHOSEN** link that is provided to all students in their first year of the program) and by completing the work in the workbook. The following pages should be completed and turned in for missed classes:
 1. The **Watch It** page
 2. The **Challenge of the Week** | students are to choose to write (a paragraph) about one challenge of the week.
- For MOVIE | Students will be given access to the movie and will be asked to complete a list of discussion questions. The movie should be watched and the discussion questions should be completed and turned in at their next class or emailed as stated above.
- **ALTARATION** | Students will be given access to ALTARATION videos to complete assignments from the workbook.
- OTHER ABSENCES | Makeup work will be provided as needed.

9th and 10th Grade Retreat | [Saturday, November 18, 2023](#) | Details to follow.

Diving Deep leads students to consider Christ's invitation to follow him, and invites them to make a stronger commitment to living their faith.

[Retreat Permission Slip required and Due 10/29/2023.](#)





Parent Meeting Opening Prayer:

Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings.
We thank and praise you.

Thank you for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.

May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.

May their ears hear your voice. **May** their eyes see your presence in all things. **May** their lips proclaim your word. **May** their hearts be your dwelling place. **May** their hands do works of charity. **May** their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. **Amen.**

Parent Meeting Closing Prayer:

Loving God,
Pour out your blessing Upon our beloved children,
That during this time of Sacramental preparation
They may grow closer to you,
And come to know your special love for them.
May this time of preparation be a time of blessing
For our families and our community,
And unite us all in your great love. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

IN THE CHURCH

THURSDAYS FROM 5:00PM - 8:00PM

OR

FRIDAY MORNINGS AFTER 8:00AM MASS UNTIL 10:00AM

What should I do during Adoration?

1. Read from your Bible or Prayer book
2. Listen to Praise and Worship music
(with your headphones, of course!)
3. Pray the Rosary
4. Be okay with Silence - Listen
5. Be patient - Start small - even
ten minutes!

TAKE A BREAK FROM ALL THE CHAOS!

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

It's a form of prayer that began centuries ago. The word Adoration means to pay homage to someone. The same Jesus whom we receive in the Eucharist at Mass is the same one we worship in Adoration. Adoration is a time to sit face to face with Jesus and deepen and strengthen our relationship with Him.