

# Christian Formation

## Elementary & Middle School

Through our Christian Formation program, we assist parents in the awesome responsibility of leading their children to a personal relationship with God through the Gospel values of Jesus Christ through their faith and witness. This process begins at home with the parents creating the “domestic church” and continues with formal instruction in the Catholic faith through our Christian Formation Program. Your child will learn about the foundations of their Catholic faith and the Catholic way of life so that they can grow to know, love, and serve God in this life. Our catechists help children grow deeper in their knowledge, love and service to God and others. Each year of formation builds on the following year, so it is imperative that children continue on in the program for each level. Our program is scheduled around Mass times to allow you to make it convenient for you to attend with your family while allowing your children to attend with your family while allowing your children to attend class or after.

## Summary Of Each Grade

### Elementary Level

#### **Grade 1**

Students discover that God is the Creator of all that is good and how each of them made in His image. Students learn about the Holy Trinity, Jesus, and the Holy Family. They are introduced to what it means to be a part of a church and an introduction to what we do at Mass. Different forms of prayer are introduced. The Sign of the Cross, The Our Father, The Hail Mary, and The Glory Be are all prayers that are taught on this level.

#### **Grade 2**

Students continue to learn about what goes on during the Mass. They develop a better awareness about God’s love and Mercy through prayer as well as forming a better understanding of sin. The Act of Contrition prayer is taught on this level.

A special focus is placed on the preparation for receiving the Sacraments of First Confession and their First Holy Eucharist.

#### **Grade 3**

Students are introduced to the Apostles Creed and how the Church is guided by the Holy Spirit. A special focus is placed on our Catholic traditions such as devotion to Mary the Mother of God, the rosary, and the lives of the saints.

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### **Grade 4**

Students focus on Catholic morality and what it takes in making good moral decisions. Students learn about Moses and how the 10 Commandments, the beatitudes and the Golden Rule should guide our moral choices.

### **Grade 5**

This year provides students with an in-depth exploration of how God's grace is given through the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. Each sacrament is studied in detail.

## Middle School

### **Grade 6**

Students spend this year immersed in God's Word in the Holy Scriptures. Salvation history is revealed through the Old Testament and fulfilled through Jesus in the New Testament. Students will receive their very own Bible to keep this year.

### **Grade 7**

This year students take a deeper dive into who Jesus really is for us. Exploring the titles of Jesus as the third person in the Holy Trinity, Jesus as our Savior, Prophet, Teacher, and Healer. Students will learn what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

### **Grade 8**

This year provides an in-depth study of Church History and how each of us is called in our own way to be a missionary for Christ in the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Middle School Retreat Day**

Retreats provide an incredible opportunity to encounter the Lord. It's a time to unplug from distractions to hear His voice more clearly. There is a fall retreat held on site led by Spiritus Ministries scheduled in the fall for all of our middle school students.