

Infusing Lives with Jesus Christ

**St. John's Catholic Church
Faith Formation
2017-2018**



Faith Formation Program Catholic Church of St. John

Contact information:

Pastor of Heart of Jesus Area Faith Community

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Senior Associate Pastor

Fr. George Schmit

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Director of Faith Formation

Joan Honzay

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Church Office

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Catechists:

Grades 3 & 4: Carol Westoff

Grades 5 & 6:

Grades 7 & 8: Shylah Melberg

Grades 9 & 10: Lael Dornseif

INFUSING LIVES WITH JESUS CHRIST

Infusing lives with Jesus Christ; that is what Faith Formation is all about. Welcome to St. John's 2017 –2018 Faith Formation program! I am excited to work with your family again this year. At St. John's the emphasis has always been on deepening an understanding of the riches of our faith through forming students' relationship with God. Again this year students will be provided with many opportunities to gain a solid understanding of the faith, to ask questions, and to gain the knowledge they need to face the many challenges they encounter in life with faith and courage. The Faith Formation program will strive to promote a loving atmosphere to allow each student an opportunity to learn about our Catholic faith through textbooks, scripture, prayer, mentoring, and ministry opportunities.

At your child's Baptism you accepted the challenge of educating your child in the ways of the faith. As you continue to respond to the challenge of parenting your sons and daughters in living their Catholic faith, may you grow in faith and in love for your child and God. I am here to assist you in forming your child(ren) in a deep relationship with Jesus Christ our Savior and in knowledge of the Catholic Faith.

If you would like additional information regarding the Faith Formation program, have suggestions, or would like to simply visit please feel free to contact me at any time. My contact information is on the front page of this booklet.

In Christ,

Joan Honzay

**St. John's Faith Formation Schedule
2017-2018**

9-19-17

| Date | Event | Details |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Sept. 20 | First Class | Family Mass |
| Sept. 27 | Class | Virtus Training |
| Oct. 4 | Class | |
| Oct. 11 | Class | Living Rosary |
| Oct. 18 | No Class | MEA break |
| Oct. 25 | Class | |
| Nov. 1 | Class/Mass | All Saints Day Mass time TBD/Students do min- istries at Mass |
| Nov. 8 | Class | |
| Nov. 15 | Class | |
| Nov. 22 | No Class | Thanksgiving Break |
| Nov. 29 | Class | Edge Event for grades 7&8: <u>5:30 at St. Mary's</u> |
| Dec. 6 | Class | |
| Sunday, Dec. 10 | Christmas Program after 8:30 Mass | |
| Dec. 13 | Caroling at BLHCC | After School |
| Dec. 20 | Class | |
| Dec. 27 | No Class | Christmas Break |

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|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Jan. 3 | Class | |
| Jan. 10 | Class | |
| Jan. 17 | Class | |
| Jan. 24 | Class | |
| Jan. 31 | Class | |
| Feb. 7 | Class | San Lucas Mission of Love Valentines and make cookies for shut ins |
| Feb. 14 | No Class/Ash Wednesday | Students do ministries at Mass |
| Feb. 21 | Class | |
| Feb. 28 | Class | |
| March 7 | Class | Stations of the Cross |
| March 14 | Class | |
| March 21 | Class | |
| March 28 | No Class | Holy Week |
| April 4 | Class | |
| April 11 | Class | |
| April 18 | Class | |
| April 25 | Last Class | Family Mass & Supper |

Times for Faith Formation Classes
Wednesdays: September 20, 2017 to May 2, 2018
Grades 2-10: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

Cancellation due to weather: If school is cancelled or closes early because of bad weather, our classes are ***automatically*** cancelled. In other, more questionable situations please listen for announcements on KOLV (100.1 FM) Olivia and KQIC (102.5 FM) radio.

Safe Environment Training: The Catholic Church is committed to the prevention of sexual abuse in our society. Each fall lesson on keeping one's self safe will be taught during a regular classroom session. If you do not want your child to attend that day's classroom session, you are required, by the diocesan office, to notify us by signing an "opt-out" form and to teach the lesson at home. Please talk to Joan Honzay if this is your preference. This year we will teach the Safe Environment lesson on Oct. 4. A student who is absent the day of the Safe Environment lesson is required, by diocesan policy, to make up the lesson.

Curriculum

Grades 2—6

In an effort to **Infuse Lives with Jesus Christ** great care has been taken to choose the best curriculum available. With that in mind; all the parishes in the Heart of Jesus Area Faith Community are using the curriculum *Be My Disciples* by RCL Benzinger for grades 1—6. In addition to this curriculum the catechist will supplement with activities that support the prayers and doctrine we require the students to learn.

Be My Disciples is broken into three main categories of study throughout the year. These categories are:

- We Believe
- We Worship
- We Live

Integrated in these categories is learning about God as the Father, God as the Son, and God as the Holy Spirit. It also features a Saint each week and many real to life topics. Each class period will begin with prayer and reciting a decade of the Rosary and will end with a time of pray.

Grades 7 & 8

The jr. high years are a special time in a youth's life. They are years of tremendous physical and spiritual growth. It is very important to reach students this age where they are at with relevant material to form them in the Catholic Faith and to foster, in them, a relationship with Jesus Christ.

With that goal in sight this year we will join the other parishes in the Heart of Jesus Area Faith Community by using the Edge curriculum from Life Teen. Edge is dynamic and engaging! It uses a host of multimedia, teacher lead discussion and small group activities to grasp students' attention and to build lessons on.

In addition to the regular Edge classes on Wednesday evenings, the Edge students will meet with the rest of the seventh and eighth graders in the Heart of Jesus AFC for special Edge Events. These events will be a time to meet with other students to learn, pray, and to get to know each other. The dates are as follows:

- **Nov. 29 @ St. Mary's 5:50—6:30** Please note the TIME CHANGE FOR THIS EVENT ONLY. National speaker Nic Davidson will present to our youth.
- **Jan. 31 @ St. Aloysius 7:00-8:15**
- **April 11, 2017 @ St. Aloysius 7:00-8:15**

Grades 9 & 10

This year ninth and tenth grades at St. John's will be using the *Alterations* curriculum from Ascension Press. The following is an explanation of *Alterations* from the Ascension Press website.

Through a unique learning experience, including powerful cinematography and workbook resources, teens will come to see the Mass and the priesthood in a dramatically new way. Altaration is designed to stir thought, create conversation, dispel myths, and inspire young souls to a deep and lasting love for the Mass. The goal of Altaration is not to fill teens' heads with information but to pierce their hearts with transformation.

After experiencing the "why" behind the "what" of the Mass, Catholic teens will...

- *Enter prepared,*
- *Participate with sincerity,*
- *And exit with purpose!*

How we can collaborate together throughout the year:

1. Pray for the students and catechists in the program. Daily prayer is vital to the success of Faith Formation. *"I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."* Psalm 34:4. We need your prayers throughout the entire year, so please pray!
2. Speak with your child(ren) about the value of our Catholic Faith. Share with them about Jesus, who the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is, who the Church is (Mystical Body of Christ), who Mary is and why she is our Mother, how to speak with God, who the saints are, and why we attend classes on the faith. If you need help with this please talk to Joan Honzay, one of the priest in the Heart of Jesus Area Faith Community, or to someone else you trust with such issues, and trust in God. There are many resource available to you for your own formation. If you would like some help finding a resource just ask and one of us will help you find what you need. There are many great resources online to help you with this as well, but please be careful there is a lot of misinformation out there too.
3. Have your child here for **class every week. Elementary-grade children must be picked up in the church basement** shortly after each class ends. For their safety, we will not just send them outside to wait.
4. **Practice** with your child the prayers and help with assignments. Every student is expected to know the prayers and to have their assignments completed. **Most importantly: Know the PERSON with whom you are speaking – God, who loves you!!!!**
5. Support the volunteer catechist, especially in matters of discipline and assignments.
6. Go through your child(ren)'s folder each week. Many times announcements will be sent home in the folders.
7. Please pick up a bulletin each week and scan it for announcements and news concerning the Faith Formation program. The bulletin can also be viewed at: heartofjesusafc.org.

Attendance:

Attendance at Faith Formation classes is critical in order for the student to learn about their Catholic faith, build a relationship with Jesus, and to prepare for reception of the sacraments.

If a student will be absent from or tardy for a class, parents are expected to call the parish office and leave a message on the recorder before the start of class. The office phone number is 320.848.6437. If a message is not left and a student is not in attendance, parent(s) will be notified and the absence will be counted as unexcused.

Note: If a student has three or more unexcused absences throughout a year the parents will be required to meet with the Joan Honzay to evaluate whether or not the student is ready to move to the next grade level in their faith formation. More than three unexcused absences from sacramental preparation classes will necessitate an evaluation of the student's readiness for the reception of the sacrament.

Classroom Etiquette:

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Students are expected, at all times, to exhibit and maintain good Christian behavior. Self-control, consideration for others, being courteous, and following rules are desirable and **expected behaviors.**

The first responsibility for discipline in the Faith Formation program lies with parents to help their child(ren) understand appropriate behavior at class. Our catechists will have clear guidelines for behavior and will help the students to understand them. The catechists, then, will be responsible for enforcing classroom behavior. The following classroom expectations will be followed in all classrooms.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

We will be kind to everyone

We will raise our hand when we want to speak

We will use inside voices

We will walk when inside the classroom, church, or Jubilee Center

We will listen to teachers and other adults and follow directions

We keep our bodies to ourselves

We respect others and their property

We do not bring food or toys to class

We will use objects for their intended purpose

CONSEQUENCES

1st time - warning

2nd time - sent to Mrs. Honzay or her assistant and parents called. A conference with student, parent(s), and Mrs. Honzay will occur to try to find a solution to the issue. Student cannot return to class until such a conference takes place. Any missed class periods until conference takes place will be counted as unexcused. After being sent out of class 3 times, student must be educated at home and check in with Mrs. Honzay regularly.



**KEEP
CALM
&
FOLLOW
THE RULES**

