

St. Anthony the Hermit Parish
Christian Formation Program Descriptions for 2011 – 2012

Call to Faith (grades 1-8)

Content: Uses the 'Call to Faith' textbook series from Our Sunday Visitor Publishers that presents Catholic doctrine and teachings at an age-appropriate level for each grade on the following topics:

- Revelation
- Trinity
- Jesus Christ
- The Church
- Morality
- Sacraments
- Kingdom of God
- Liturgical Year
- Catholic Social Teachings
- Catholic Source Book: Scripture, Creed, Liturgy, Morality, Prayer, Words of Faith Glossary

- Schedule: Meets twice a month on Sunday mornings from September through May from 9:10am to 10:20am to allow attendance at Mass before or after class, with one evening class during Advent and Lent that includes a program for parents, and one additional Sunday morning class to cover the 21 chapters in the textbook.
- Fee: \$100 per student

Home Schooling Option:

- Home Schooling for grades 1 through 8 for the entire year is an option. The registration process still needs to be followed. To ensure proper follow-through and accountability for home schooling, sign-off sheets, chapter activity sheets and unit tests will be used and collected on a periodic basis to verify that the work is being done. This is to satisfy archdiocesan requirements for providing accountability on a parish's religious education programs.
- Fee: \$25 per student (covers the cost of the textbook, separate handout materials, and a small administration fee).

Attach Yourself Only to Jesus Christ* (grades 9-11)

Content: All three grades use The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth from St. Mary's Press Publishers. This textbook parallels the 'Four Pillars' of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and is used throughout the high school program.

- Grade 9 focuses on 'The Creed,' along with an introduction to the 'Liturgy and Sacraments.'
- Grade 10 covers each Sacrament in greater depth and all aspects of 'Christian Morality.'
- Grade 11 presents the different kinds of 'Christian Prayer,' along with preparations for Confirmation using the text Receiving the Gift of the Spirit from Pflaum Publishers.

Schedule: Meets for an hour and a half twice a month on Sundays from September into early April. Class time will be determined by the Catechist and individual class members, usually Sunday morning or Sunday evening.

Fee: \$100 per student**

As explained below under Sacramental Programs, there is an additional \$150 fee for Confirmation

* Part of a quote from St. John Baptist de La Salle: "Attach yourself only to Jesus Christ, to his doctrine, and his holy maxims, since he has done you the honor of choosing you in preference to a great many others."

** If a student already has a copy of the second edition, copyright 2008, of The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, published by St. Mary's Press, the fee is \$80.

Sacramental Programs:

The Christian Formation program includes preparation and reception of three sacraments each year: 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Reconciliation and Eucharist:

- These Sacraments are normally received in 2nd grade, but older children (typically in 3rd or 4th grade), who have not yet received are invited to participate as well. Preparation for these sacraments is separate from the regular Christian Formation classes. There is a parental instructional session for each sacrament, with the teaching and preparation for the sacraments done at home between parent and child. Reconciliation is celebrated in early January, and Eucharist is held on a Sunday in May.
- Fee: \$50 per student (covers both sacraments)
- NOTE: Students who wish to participate in these sacraments must be enrolled in the St. Anthony Parish day school, Christian Formation classes, or a local private Catholic grade school.

Confirmation:

- Confirmation is offered for juniors in high school. Their Christian Formation classes are geared toward this Sacrament. In addition to attending classes, there are other requirements of the preparation process, including a weekend retreat and service hours. Confirmation is celebrated in April or May.
- Fee: \$150 per student (this is in addition to the \$100 grade 11 tuition). Cost covers the weekend retreat and an additional textbook specific to Confirmation preparation.
- NOTE: Juniors who attend a local Catholic High School and wish to be confirmed must be enrolled in the St. Anthony 11th grade Christian Formation program.

RCIA/RCIC:

- Students who have not yet received these sacraments, and who fall outside these age groups, are encouraged to enroll in RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) or RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children). There is an active RCIA/RCIC program here at St. Anthony, and those interested should contact the Pastor for more information.

Additional Program Information:

Safe Environment Lesson

- In every catechetical year, per Archdiocesan requirements, one safe environment lesson is presented in all classes at all grade levels. Students are taught how to keep themselves safe in various situations and made aware of appropriate and inappropriate behaviors with the intent to promote safety and prevent child sexual abuse. The Catechists use age-appropriate information as provided by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Meeting Archdiocesan Expectations

- The Archdiocese of Milwaukee provides recommended levels of faith formation and understanding for grades 1 through 8 as defined by the following categories:
 - Life Experiences
 - Historical/Creedal/Church
 - Liturgy/Sacrament/Prayer
 - Moral Life
 - Scripture
- Grade school Catechists are given copies of this information and instructed to present, emphasize, and supplement as needed, the aspects of our curriculum that support the Archdiocesan recommendations.

Safe Environment Training

- All Christian Formation staff, adult Catechists and Aides, and parent/adult volunteers who have regular contact with children must meet the requirements of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops 'Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People':
 - Attend a 'Safeguarding All of God's Family' safe environment and sexual-abuse awareness training program as sponsored by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee
 - Sign an acknowledgement form that they have read and understand the Archdiocesan 'Code of Ethical Standards for Church Leaders'
 - Sign a release form allowing for a criminal background check before they are allowed to work or help out in the program
 - Receive and read through the quarterly 'Safeguarding All of God's Family' newsletter published by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

USCCB approval of Catechetical textbooks

- The textbooks used for grades 1-11 have been found to be in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism. These texts have also been given the 'Nihil Obstat' and 'Imprimatur' – official declarations that a book or pamphlet is free of Catholic doctrinal or moral error.

If you have questions about any of the programs, please call John Hying, Director of Faith Formation, at the Parish Office: 262-251-5910, x24.