

ST. JAMES FAITH FORMATION

PROGRAMS OFFERED

TRADITIONAL—This K-8 program offers a traditional classroom approach to teaching the essentials of the faith. It is taught by a Catechist with the use of a textbook and bible. Our textbook series is Faith and Life by Ignatius Press. Each grade level presents the story of salvation history; through this love story students encounter Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. As children are introduced to and revisit concepts and vocabulary from one year to the next, their knowledge and experience both broaden and deepen. This program provides lessons in the faith and delivers those lessons through experiential activities that encourage lifelong practice. These classes meet once a week for 1½ hours on Mondays at 5:30 pm.

Kindergarten: Our Response to God's Gifts
(Finding God by Loyola Press)
Grades 1-8: Faith & Life by Ignatius Press
Grade 1: Our Heavenly Father
Grade 2: Jesus Our Life
Grade 3: Our Life with Jesus
Grade 4: Jesus Our Guide
Grade 5: Credo: I Believe
Grade 6: Following Christ
Grade 7: The Life of Grace
Grade 8: Our Life in the Church

GOOD SHEPHERD—*The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* began in Rome over sixty years ago and is rooted in the Bible, the Liturgy of the Church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori (hands-on learning). Level I is for 3-6 year olds; Level II is for grades 1-4, and Level III is for grades 5-8. These classes meet once a week for 1½ hours on Mondays at 5:30 pm. Children gather in a room specially prepared for them, called an atrium, which contains simple yet beautiful materials that they use to draw near to God. For the child, the atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worshipping community. More information can be found at www.cgusa.org.

FAMILY — ***This option is recommend for parents that want to be a major part of their child's faith formation.*** The "Family" option will allow you, the parent, to be the primary teacher. In this option you will work at home with your child during the month. Once a month, all the families in this program will meet together after 9 AM Mass. This will be the only form of home schooling that will be offered. **To become a part of the Family option, the family will need to meet with the director before admittance is granted.**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION—***is a special time and should be given the time and emphasis that it deserves.*** These sessions are incorporated in both of the programs chosen above. Preparation for the sacraments requires that children have attended two consecutive years of prior faith formation before receiving a sacrament, either in a Catholic school or a parish faith formation program. Preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation happens in the 1st semester of 3rd grade. Preparation for the sacrament of Eucharist (3rd grade) and Confirmation (8th grade) happens 2nd semester.

It is required that at least one parent attend each sacramental preparation meeting for which your child is enrolled. It is important you are aware of the proper format so that you can help and reinforce the child's preparation at home.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)—This process is for children over 7 who have not been baptized and/or for children older than 3rd grade who have not received their sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, or had any formal instruction. Please call the Director or email: emily@stjameshighland.org with any questions.

YOUTH MINISTRY—We had two levels of Youth Ministry. For high school students we had **Life Ministry** and for middle school students in grades 6-8 we had **KIC** (Kids in Christ). These groups are currently inactive. If you are interested in leading either of these ministries, please contact Emily Watroba at 924-4220.

ADULT FORMATION—The General Directory for Catechesis, which is a publication from the Vatican through the bishops, instructs us that Adult Faith Formation is to be a primary focus in each church. It is the ongoing formation that enables the adults to be a better example for the children as well as for others in the community. It is the basis for all other catechesis in the parish. We present different opportunities for Adult Formation throughout the year.

For more information, contact: Emily Watroba, Director of Faith Formation,
924-4220 -or- emily@stjameshighland.org

A NOTE ABOUT OUR CATECHISTS—All Catechists have completed a criminal background check and have completed or are in the process of completing the required Diocesan, "Protecting God's Children" program. They are also working towards or have attained Basic Formation status under the Diocesan policy on religious education certification. Catechists are instructed in such areas as theology, the Bible, discipline and teaching techniques.