

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: Spirit of Truth (Sophia Institute for Teachers)
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

FAMILY — *This option is recommend for parents that want to be the primary teacher of their child's faith formation.* 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.**

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD — (Level I - Pre & K; Level II - grades 1-3; Level III - grades 4-6): *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* began many years ago and is rooted in the Bible, the Liturgy of the Church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori (hands-on learning). 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. In the early church, the atrium was the place where Christians prepared to enter more fully into the community of faith. For the child, the atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worshipping community. More information can be found at www.cgsusa.org. These classes meet once a week for 1½ hours on Mondays at 5:30 pm.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION (for the above 3 programs) — Preparation begins with the Baptism of your child. As you are teaching prayers, attending Mass and modeling your Christian values, your child is preparing for the sacraments. Immediate preparation for the sacraments will happen as follows: Reconciliation (Confession) in 2nd grade, Eucharist (Communion) in 3rd grade, and Confirmation in 7th & 8th grade. These sessions will be held on Tuesday, evenings, 5:30-7 pm, in the second semester.

Each child that is preparing must have at least one year of prior Faith Formation or attendance at a Catholic School in order to enter the grade for sacramental preparation.

Sacramental preparation is a special time and should be given the time and emphasis that it deserves. 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: ealapas@stjameshighland.org with any questions.

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: Emilija Lapas, Director of Religious Education,
219-924-4220 -or- ealapas@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.