



**at st. monica's**  
Lifelong Information Formation Education

**Religious Education  
Information  
and Policy Book  
2009-2010**

## ***Our Parish Mission Statement***

*We, the Eucharistic community of St. Monica, guided by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ, embrace our mission to continue the work of Jesus. We devote our God-given talents, precious time, and earthly treasure to love and serve all people. We commit ourselves to live our faith in the Word of God through prayer, evangelization and outreach.*



### How To Reach Us:

**Catholic Church of Saint Monica  
1700 Buford Highway, Duluth, Georgia 30097**

**Parish Office:678-584-9947      Fax:678-584-9760  
[www.saintmonicas.com](http://www.saintmonicas.com)**

Father Jack Durkin, Pastor	ext. 11	<a href="mailto:fatherjack@saintmonicas.com">fatherjack@saintmonicas.com</a>
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Madeline Murphy, Administrative Assistant to R.E.	ext. 21	<a href="mailto:madeline.murphy@saintmonicas.com">madeline.murphy@saintmonicas.com</a>



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF  
SAINT MONICA

“We have heard them, we know them; our ancestors have recited them to us. We do not keep them from our children; we recite them to the next generation, the praiseworthy and mighty deeds of the Lord, the wonders that he performed.”

Psalms 78:3-4

*Dear Parish Families,*

*Welcome to the Religious Education Program of St. Monica's! We are especially committed to helping all of our parishioners know and understand their faith. The seeds of faith, first planted at Baptism, must be nurtured if we are to grow closer to God and flourish as faithful members of our Christian community. St. Monica's offers an all-encompassing approach to faith formation through weekly worship, children's religion classes, LIFE Events, adult education offerings, Christian Initiation, and Sacraments.*

*Let us continue to grow in our faith while modeling lifelong learning to our children. We encourage you to become a part of the community life of St. Monica's as we work together to be Christ-like in our lives through education, formation, service and friendship.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Father Jack Durkin*



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# Registering Preschool - High School

## How to Register:

**Important:** Please be sure to register as a Parishioner / Parish Family with the Parish Office before registering your family for Religious Education classes. If you are new to St. Monica's Religious Education program and have attended classes at another parish, please attach a letter from your former parish verifying your child's attendance.

- Read this policy booklet thoroughly.
- Complete and sign this year's current 2009-2010 registration form for Pre-K, K, Elementary and High school.
- Pick up sacramental preparation form and calendar if needed.
- Pick up a Life Event calendar and attendance record for grades 1—8.
- Complete the Volunteer Forms.
- Attach check made payable to: Catholic Church of St. Monica. Fees are due at time of registration.
- FAXES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED Mail completed registration forms with check to:

**Catholic Church of St. Monica  
R.E. Registration Office  
1700 Buford Highway  
Duluth, GA 30097**

### Registration Fees for Religious Education classes are:

<u>Number of</u> <u>Children</u>	<u>Payment rec'd</u> <u>by 6/30/09</u>	<u>Payment rec'd</u> <u>after 6/30/09</u>
Catechist rate- (per child)	\$40.00	\$40.00
One child	\$85.00	\$110.00
Two children	\$160.00	\$185.00
Three children	\$235.00	\$260.00
Four or more children	\$310.00	\$335.00

*Sacramental fee for children not enrolled in our Religious Education program is \$50.00.*

- \* You will be contacted ONLY if we are unable to accommodate your first choice.
- \* Every effort is made to schedule siblings at the same sessions.
- \* All registrations will be processed on first-come, first-served basis.
- \* Class lists will be posted the week before class begins.
- \* Registration forms received after August 1st may not be processed in time for the first class of Fall semester. There is a minimum two-week waiting period for class placement of students registered after August 1st.



# Policies and Procedures

*Policies apply to all age groups unless otherwise noted.*

## Mass Attendance

Mass attendance is the essential and central part of passing on the faith. Saint Monica's Religious Education program complements, but does not replace your children's participation at the Sunday liturgy with their family. We encourage and support your commitment to make sure your children attend Mass as well as classes, and LIFE Events. Doing this will nourish and strengthen your family's faith and understanding. Discuss with your family how you will schedule attending Sunday Mass as a family and also faithfully attend Religious Education classes and Life Events.

## Class Attendance

We celebrate your Baptismal commitment to educate your child in our parish. Every effort should be made to have your child attend class. Absences should only be due to illness or family emergency. In the instance of a child having more than one custodial home, please contact the Religious Education Office so that we may better serve your family's needs. Parents should communicate absences for grade 1 to 8 to Anne Hennessey at 678-584-9947 ext. 16 and 9 to 12 to Courtney Desmond at ext. 20.

- ✚ If more than two classes are missed, your child will be considered at risk of an incomplete on his/her record for the year.
- ✚ LIFE Events count as a class. Students in grades 1-8 are expected to attend 8 LIFE Events in addition to one semester of classes. Attendance at 8 LIFE Events and all the RE classes will complete the Religious Education program successfully. Parents maintain each child's Life Event attendance record and then turn in to the RE office by May 31, 2010.
- ✚ Parents of students in grades 1-8 are responsible for obtaining the lesson for a missed class. They should assist the child with the completion of the lesson and return it to the catechist.
- ✚ High School does not offer make up work. In addition, those who choose to leave the building during activity will not be permitted to re-enter.
- ✚ Classes begin promptly. Please help your child be on time.

## Conduct

Students are expected to participate in class activities and discussions. Life as a Christian is a commitment to live by the example of Jesus Christ. This includes accepting responsibility for conduct and actions, along with the commitment to respect others.

## Discipline

The catechist will handle normal discipline problems. If a problem becomes persistent, the student will be sent to the Session Coordinator or Coordinator of Religious Education. A continuing problem may necessitate a call to the parents. A parent may be requested to attend class with a child in extreme cases and ultimately removal from the program may be necessary. Disciplinary infractions include, but are not limited to abusive language, fighting, vandalism, disrespect to catechist or other students, stealing, and leaving the building during class time.

## Weather

If Gwinnett County Schools are closed for severe or inclement weather, classes will not be held. If you judge conditions in your area to be unsafe, please stay home and call us at ext. 16 to inform us. Go to [www.saintmonicas.com](http://www.saintmonicas.com) for cancellation information.

## Emergency Contacts

If an emergency should arise during a CCD class, you may reach the Session Coordinator at 678-584-9947 ext 34.

## Special Needs

Please let us know if there are any medical conditions, learning or physical needs which may affect your child's learning experience. Our goal is to provide a positive, affirming atmosphere in which all students can learn and grow in their faith.

## Communication

Communication between parish and family is essential. We communicate to you through the parish bulletin, pulpit announcements at the conclusion of Mass and our parish web site at [www.saintmonicas.com](http://www.saintmonicas.com). There are calendars for each program, which are available on the information counter in the Religious Education Building. Don't forget that we rely on **you** to keep us informed of important developments in your family life that affect our ability to serve you.

## Safety

**The safety of your children is very important to us. To ensure the safety of your children we have instituted the following measures:**

- ✚ All K-8 parents are required to park their cars and escort children to and from the classroom.
- ✚ Park ONLY in designated parking spaces and respect handicap and reserved parking spaces.
- ✚ All children should arrive no more than ten (10) minutes before the beginning of class.
  - ✚ Parents should not leave a child in a classroom unattended by a catechist.

# Prayer

Prayer is essential for all our children. It is through prayer that we, as people of faith, deepen our relationships with Jesus Christ. As parents, it is our responsibility to share and nurture a prayer life with our children. The best way to learn to pray is by imitation, no matter what age. Share many forms of prayer with your family. Encourage your family to set aside specific time for talking to the Lord in the many ways available to us.

Prayer is a fundamental of our faith, and has many forms: Sunday Liturgy, traditional prayers and spontaneous prayer. The prayers listed below are traditional prayers of our faith that we ask all children and adults be familiar with and know at age appropriate levels.

Pre-K	<i>Sign of the Cross, Grace Before Meals Introduction of Sunday Mass</i>
Kindergarten	<i>All of the above plus Hail Mary and Our Father</i>
Grade One	<i>All of the above plus Glory Be, St. Monica Prayer and regular participation at Sunday Mass</i>
Grade Two	<i>All of the above plus Prayer of Sorrow</i>
Grade Three	<i>All of the above plus Introduction to the Rosary</i>
Grade Four	<i>All of the above plus Nicene Creed</i>
Grade Five	<i>All of the above plus Stations of the Cross</i>
Grade Six & above	<i>All of the above</i>

***These prayers may be found on our website under Religious Education.***



# **Preschool 3 & 4 Year Olds and Kindergarten**

Sunday Mornings: 8:30 and 10:30am

**Children age three, by September 1st of the current year** and older are encouraged to participate in Religious Education classes held during Sunday morning Mass at 8:30 and 10:30am. Although formal religious instruction is not required at this age, the program does foster “religion readiness” and is an initial positive church experience. Consistent attendance is important for a young child’s sense of security. Some children may experience difficulty adapting to group situations. Consider your child and your family’s situation before making this commitment. Preschool children are invited, but not required, to attend LIFE Events.

*The preschool does not meet every Sunday.*

*Please be sure to consult the website for the preschool calendar under religious education.*

## **Curriculum**

### **Three and Four Year Olds**

The preschool religious education program is designed to support parents in educating their children about Catholic faith by:

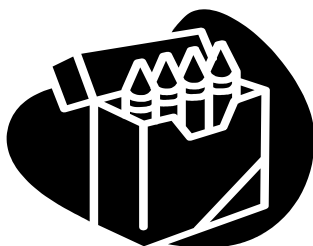
- † Developing positive attitude about themselves, their family and friends by discovering and learning more about the many and varied gifts, talents, and abilities that God has given each child.
- † Increasing the children’s knowledge and participation in the Church’s liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter;
- † Increasing the children’s knowledge about God and their friendship with Jesus;
- † Increasing the children’s knowledge and practice of Christian actions toward others, such as taking turns, listening, helping, waiting, caring, sharing, loving and thanking others;
- † Increasing the children’s appreciation and celebration of God’s love and goodness through Scripture, music and prayer.

The catechists use a structured curriculum that is age appropriate and includes motor skills, music, stories, finger plays, games, dramatizations, lesson related prayers, and sensory activities. Above all, a pleasant relationship between catechist and children not only exemplifies God’s love, but also aids the children in forming patterns of social behavior and Christian attitudes toward others.

### **Kindergarten**

The kindergarten curriculum is divided into four units and contains twenty-four chapters. Nineteen chapters focus on the core teachings of the Catholic church that are foundational to Catholic life. Five chapters are devoted to Bible stories. Additionally, there are ten lessons that engage the children in the celebrations of the seasons and special days of the Church year. For a detailed description of chapter lessons, parents are invited to visit the publisher’s website [www.faithfirst.com](http://www.faithfirst.com). Click on Catechists and Teachers, go to Scope and Sequence. Finally, click on Kindergarten.

**For additional questions, please contact Katherine Milby at ext. 22**



# L.I.F.E. Events

## **What is “LIFE”?**

The term “LIFE” (lifelong, information, formation and education) is a way of remembering our baptismal promises to participate in the mission of the Church: to proclaim and establish the Kingdom of God begun by Jesus Christ. From this foundation, we are continually converted through the reception of the Sacraments.

We are drawn by divine grace to respond to the merciful love of God through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. We are strengthened by the Holy Spirit in Confirmation as we are bound more closely to Christ. Nourished by the Eucharist, our communion with divine life and the People of God, we are already united with the liturgy of heaven and have a foretaste of eternal life.

Through religious education, we learn about the church, and our faith, and how to apply it to the way we live. All that we do as a community of faith helps us to grow and come to know how God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit work in our lives. Our Parish Family helps us to respond to our Gospel call as faithful witnesses of Christ and His Church. In our religious education programs, St. Monica’s offers a variety of age-appropriate faith formation opportunities and activities.

## **What is a LIFE Event?**

LIFE Events are the way the parish of Saint Monica’s learns together, prays together, gets to know each other and celebrates! The events are designed for all ages and stages of development. Offered throughout the year, these ‘holy’ family events teach and express who we are and how we are called to live. You will find a detailed list of all LIFE Events on the information counter in the religious education building.

## **Do my children have to attend LIFE Events?**

Yes, in addition to attending religious education classes here at the parish, each child in grades 1 through 8 is required to attend 8 LIFE Events to complete their religious education attendance for the year. We offer at least 16 different LIFE Events each year. Children enrolled in the Home Study Program are also required to attend 8 LIFE Events. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend LIFE Events. **Children do not attend these Events alone,** but with the entire family or at least one parent.

## **How is Life Event attendance maintained?**

We give you, as your child’s primary educator in the faith, the responsibility to maintain LIFE Event attendance records. After you and your child attend a LIFE Event, reflect on what you learned about Christ and our faith. Write down your thoughts in the “Reflection” column and place an “X” in the “Attended” column on the corresponding LIFE Event line of your child’s 2009-2010 Student Life Event Attendance Record form. Completed forms should be turned into the Religious Education Office once 8 LIFE Events have been attended and recorded. All forms must be turned in no later than May 31, 2010.

## **LIFE Support Volunteer**

Help make your faith come alive by serving right here at your parish as a catechist, facilitator, or LIFE Event volunteer! As an important part of the religious education programs, you will be inspired and blessed as you share your faith and support our community’s spiritual growth. Please complete the Volunteer Registration Form.

† **All volunteers must have the “Archdiocese Safe Environment forms” on file at St. Monica’s to work with minors. Forms available on RE counter or at [www.saintmonicas.com](http://www.saintmonicas.com) under ‘Catholic links’**

# Elementary & Middle School Curriculum

## Grades 1-8

### All Grades:

For a detailed description of chapter lessons, visit the publisher's website [www.faithfirst.com](http://www.faithfirst.com).

### Grades One Through Six:

The doctrine taught in grades one through six is drawn from the four pillars of faith (Creed, Prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments, and Morality), as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. These important elements of Catholic belief are interwoven throughout each grade level. They are also taught as separate strands in each grade. This balanced approach ensures that children will come to know, love, and live the rich heritage of the faith we are proud to profess in Christ Jesus. The lessons are developmentally presented to help your child recognize that what we believe, how we worship, how we live, and how we pray make a difference in our lives.

The Sacred Scriptures are the heart of Catholic Christian life. Through the Bible, God's Word nourishes and revitalizes our life of faith. For that reason, Scripture is included in every chapter of our curriculum. Scripture is also taught as a separate strand throughout the program. Through these Scripture chapters, your child will grow in their knowledge and love of God's Word.

### Seventh Graders :

Engage in a more intense study of Creed, Prayer and Scripture. The faith of the Church is grounded in the fullness of divine Revelation that is found in the life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ. The students examine the Creed of the Catholic Church. The life and message of Jesus are explored in the four Gospels with emphasis on understanding and praying the scriptures. The students are also introduced to Saint Paul, his and other New Testament letters and the Book of Revelation.

### Eighth Graders :

**Please NOTE: Completion of 8th grade religious education is now required in order to receive confirmation in 10th grade.**

This upcoming year, 2009-2010 Saint Monica's 8th grade class will meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm ONLY in either Fall or Spring semester. Fr. Jack will be facilitating and teaching this class. The class will be on "The Theology of the Body" Pope John Paul II's integrated vision of the human person—body, soul and spirit. As he explains, the physical human body has a specific meaning and is capable of revealing answers regarding fundamental questions about us and our lives:

- ~Is there real purpose to life and if so, what is it?
- ~Why were we created male and female?
- ~Does it really matter if we are one sex or another?
- ~Why were man and woman called to communion from the beginning? What does the marital union of a man and a woman say to us about God and his plan for our lives?
- ~What is the purpose of the married and celibate vocations?
- ~What exactly is "love"?
- ~ Is it truly possible to be pure of heart?

# **The Middle School Youth Program**

Early adolescence is a very critical and difficult time in a person's life. The middle school years begin the process of transforming a child into an adult. They are not really children anymore, but they are not adults either.

In addition to the classroom, we offer events twice a month for middle school students. This year the focus will be on "New Testament Characters." At least four of these events must be attended for LIFE credit. Students may attend 8 middle school events to obtain LIFE credit, but at least four must be middle school events, excluding socials.

**Saturday Night Youth Groups:** All 6th to 8th graders are welcome to attend our Saturday night youth events, which occur immediately following the **Saturday 5:30pm mass**. Some events are held on site. Others are offsite. Examples of some of the off site events are; bowling, visiting a corn maze in the Fall, or serving those in nursing homes. Please consult the bulletin as the year progresses.

**Service Projects:** We make several trips throughout the year to the Soup Kitchen in Atlanta. We serve the poor also by holding food drives or assisting St. Vincent de Paul. We care for the body of Christ in our midst.

**Retreats:** There is a middle school retreat in January. The entire year culminates to this retreat.

**Activities:** There are many exciting trips throughout the year. Summer Camp at Covecreat, Six Flags White Water, etc. Be sure to consult the bulletin and website for a full calendar of events.

**CORE team help needed!!** We need young adult and adult volunteers to help out before, during and after each event. If you desire to help middle schoolers deepen their relationship with Christ in a fun environment, this may be a ministry for you!!

Contact: Anne Hennessy, Coordinator of Elementary and Middle school religious education, @ 678-584-9947 ext. 16 or email [Anne.hennessy@saintmonicas.com](mailto:Anne.hennessy@saintmonicas.com)

**Visitors and Friends are ALWAYS welcome!!!**

† **All volunteers must have the "Archdiocese Safe Environment forms" on file at St. Monica's to work with minors. Forms available on RE counter or at [www.saintmonicas.com](http://www.saintmonicas.com) under 'Catholic links'**

## Catholic Camp

Saint Monica's Catholic Camp is a faith-based and fun-filled program held for five days at the end of June for children ages 3 to rising 6th graders.

Our goal is to provide formation and inspiration to keep the flame of the Holy Spirit burning brightly throughout the summer break!

Each day, we have crafts, drama, songs, games, mission activities, and snacks to go along with our lessons and theme.

This camp meets from 9:30am to 12:30 pm, Monday through Friday, and relies on many happy volunteers!

Child care is provided for younger children of our volunteers.

The campers and their families celebrate Mass and come together for an ice cream social in the evening during camp week.

Contact [Carol@saintmonicas.com](mailto:Carol@saintmonicas.com) for more information or to volunteer.

All volunteers must have the "Archdiocese Safe Environment forms" on file at St. Monica's to work with minors. Forms available on RE counter or at [www.saintmonicas.com](http://www.saintmonicas.com) under 'Catholic links'

**Come have fun at Catholic Camp!!**

# **Saint Monica's High School Youth Group**

## **Grades 9-12**

**Mission statement:** To lead teens into a relationship with Jesus Christ and empower them to live as His disciples through sacraments, prayer, community, service, catechesis and social events.

**Pizza and Prayer:** Pizza and Prayer is really the heartbeat of St. Monica's youth group. Prayer is one of the most important things we do as Catholics. We meet weekly throughout the whole year **Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30pm.** We gather in the Narthex for pizza and then have music and different forms of prayer following.

**Weekly Youth Nights:** All teens, grades 9—12, are welcome to attend our Sunday night youth group, immediately following the 5:30pm Mass. We begin with food and fellowship. The topics range from teachings of our Catholic faith to nights on issues in the lives of teens today, to social and fun nights! You don't want to miss out. There are different topics presented through speakers, skits, music and activities followed by small break out groups for discussion. So what are we missing? **YOU!!** Come check us out any Sunday and be part of this incredible community.

**Retreats:** Retreats are one of the highlights of St. Monica's youth group. They truly are a life-changing experience. There is a Confirmation retreat each year, as well as a retreat for all 9th –12th graders. This year we are starting a Junior Senior retreat as well. In the summer, teens can go on a mission trip as well as other retreats and Catholic camps. We still will meet for pizza and prayer throughout the summer as well. Rising juniors and seniors are also invited to attend a retreat for deeper faith formation and leadership training. See the calendar and/or summer schedule in the RE building for more specifics.

**Service:** We as Catholics are called to live a life of service as Christ did. Through mission work, trips to the soup kitchen in Atlanta, Cardboard Box City, and other service opportunities, we try to be the hands and feet of Christ to those who are poor both physically and spiritually.

**Activities:** Throughout the year there are opportunities for many trips including XLT which is a monthly night of worship where teens from around the diocese gather. A ski trip, white water rafting, six flags etc. See the bulletin and calendar for upcoming trips.

*Visitors and friends are ALWAYS welcome!*

## **ADULTS OF ALL AGES—WANT TO HELP BRING TEENS TO CHRIST?**

**St. Monica's CORE Team:** The youth group would not happen if it weren't for St. Monica's dedicated CORE team. These are young adult and adult volunteers that have a desire to **invest** in the lives of teens. They team up to help plan and attend youth group nights, retreats, trips and commit to on-going relational ministry with the teens. If you have a love for your Catholic faith and would love to share it with teens please consider joining us on CORE. Pray about it!

† **All volunteers must have the "Archdiocese Safe Environment forms" on file at St. Monica's to work with minors. Forms available on RE counter or at [www.saintmonicas.com](http://www.saintmonicas.com) under 'Catholic links'**

Questions? Comments? Contact Courtney Desmond, Youth Minister @ 678-584-9947 ext. 20 or email [Courtney.desmond@saintmonicas.com](mailto:Courtney.desmond@saintmonicas.com).

# Sacraments

## **Baptism**

*Questions regarding the Sacrament of Baptism may be directed to the parish office at 678-584-9947 Ext 10.*

Preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism is the first step in your child's faith life. All parents wishing to have their child receive the Sacrament of Baptism must attend a Baptismal Preparation class. Classes are held the fourth Sunday of every month from 12:30—2:00p.m. in the Religious Education Building. This class is for parents only - nursery will not be available. We ask that you make alternate child care arrangements for your infant and older siblings.

To register your child for the Sacrament of Baptism *you must meet the following criteria:*

- † You must be a registered **Active & Participating** member of Saint Monica's for a minimum **three months prior** to registering to have your child baptized.
- † **Active Member Criteria:** To be considered an active member of the parish for Catholic school registrations and sponsorship letters you must be registered in our parish, and annually have a stewardship card on file, which indicates a genuine financial commitment to the parish. Use envelopes or checks when contributing and thereby give evidence of attending Mass at St. Monica's at least 65% of the time. Even if you make a monthly contribution, or something other than weekly, please put your empty envelope in the basket for attendance purposes each time your family attends Mass. Share your time and talent with the parish through active participation in ministry, religious education and or parish events.
- † Godparents must be actively participating Catholics who are in good standing with the church. . We require a letter from their parish indicating that they are qualified to act as Godparents.
- † Both parents must attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. Once you have completed the Baptismal preparation class you may schedule your Baptism with the parish office.
- † If you have attended a Baptismal Preparation class for an older child within the last two years you are invited to attend but the class is not mandatory.

### **Baptisms are not performed during Lent.**

- † Parents with children 3-6 years old should contact Karen Lastufka at extension 10 for important information. Parents with children age 8 and up should refer to Christian Initiation found on page 18 in this book.

# Sacraments

## First Reconciliation & Eucharist

**Eligible candidates must be registered active members of the parish (details on what constitutes active membership is on page 15 of this book) and should:**

- Be in second grade or above;
- Fill out the sacramental form found in registration packet;
- Attend **all mandatory** Sacramental Preparation Parent Meetings;
- Attend the following:
  - Weekly Religious Education classes **and** 8 LIFE Events
  - or*
  - Home Study and 8 LIFE Events
  - or*
  - Home School *or* Catholic School (see asterisk at bottom of page).
- Regularly attend Sunday Liturgy; use parish envelopes to document your attendance;
- Have satisfactorily completed **1 full year** of Religious Education including **8 LIFE Events prior to the year of reception of the Sacraments** to begin Sacramental preparation. New parishioners should submit transfer records to the Religious Education office upon registration and a copy of child's Baptismal Certificate .

### **Parents must attend the following:**

One General Information Meeting  
One meeting for First Reconciliation  
One meeting for First Eucharist  
Rehearsal for First Eucharist Mass

**Please Note:** If you have already attended Sacramental preparation within the past two years, you will only need to attend the first general information meeting and the First Eucharist rehearsal.

*Sacramental Preparation calendars can be found on the information counter in the Religious Education building.*

*\*Sacramental fee for children not enrolled in our Religious Education program is \$50.00. Remember to fill out sacramental form in registration packet.*



# Sacraments

## Confirmation

“Reception of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace and recipients of the Sacrament “are more perfectly bound to the church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” Catechism no. 1285.

**Please Note:** Archdiocesan guidelines state, “...reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation will ordinarily occur when the youth is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.” Preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is available to youth in the tenth grade or above who have completed the following requirements:

### 9th Grade Preparation for Confirmation 2009-2010

- \* Completion of Religious Education in 8th grade.
- \* Register with Religious Education and pay all applicable fees.
- \* Must attend Youth Group or Pizza and Prayer, a minimum of once a month in 9th grade. Youth group attendance forms must be completed and turned in. The forms are due in December and May of the 9th grade year for each semester. Active involvement in the life of Saint Monica’s parish is strongly encouraged. More frequent attendance at youth group or pizza and prayer is highly recommended.
- \* Mandatory attendance at Parent and Student informational meeting in January. A letter will be sent to candidates home with date and time information.
- \* Complete the 6 session Confirmation Class beginning in January at St. Monica’s. All 6 sessions are required to move on to 10th grade preparation. The classes will be held on Sundays from 3:15 to 5:00pm.
- \* Take and pass the exam at the end of the 6 week class.
- \* Attend the Sponsor/Candidate workshop and presentation mass.
- \* Provide a copy of your baptismal certificate to the religious education office.
- \* Turn in a fully completed confirmation packet by the date requested. (This is provided at the parent/candidate meeting in January.)
- \* Attend a full weekend Confirmation retreat in 10th grade.
- \* Participate in a final interview.
- \* Choose a sponsor.
- \* Complete the service hour requirements.
- \* Be faithful to living out the Catholic faith, desiring the Sacraments, and attending Mass every Sunday and on all Holy Days of obligation.

We are called to ongoing faith formation for the rest of our lives. Therefore active participation in the life of the Church is expected and encouraged by the whole family both before and after Confirmation.

#### ***The confirmation class will cover the following topics:***

- Class 1 God’s call and our response
- Class 2 Scripture/Tradition/Magisterium
- Class 3 Overview of Church History Since Pentecost & Saints
- Class 4 The Mass and overview of the Sacraments
- Class 5 Catholic Morality
- Class 6 Confirmation and Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

# Sacraments

## **Adult Confirmation**

Adult Catholics who desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are asked to attend one series of preparation prior to the celebration of the sacrament. Preparation series are offered in the Fall and in the Spring. Call Patrick Klein at ext. 12 for more information.

## Order of Christian Initiation

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith? We invite you to Christian Initiation. In its simplest terms, the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is a collection of rites which the Roman Catholic Church has instituted for the initiation of adults and children. Adults, teens, and children wishing to join the Church or continue with their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) are welcome. This is a process about journeying with the community in its way of life and faith through formation and information sessions held at 8:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. Those desiring to enter the Church will generally celebrate reception of the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Groups of interested candidates form throughout the year. Call Patrick Klein ext. 12 for more information.

Children who are 8 years and older that are baptized but have little or no formal Catholic Education and wish to receive Eucharist and Confirmation or who have not been baptized and desire to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) are invited with their families to be part of the Christian Initiation process. For more information please contact Katherine Milby @ ext. 22.



# **Ongoing Adult Education & Spirituality**

Our journey to know and understand our Lord is lifelong. We must find ways to strengthen our commitment to be touched and changed by the life of Christ. We need to continue to learn more about our Blessed Lord. Our parish family is committed to supporting the growth of its adults, young adults, and its student parishioners through various formation opportunities including: reflection, prayer and study. These are pathways to understanding more fully the loving plan God has for each of us.

## **Seekers - Women's Faith Sharing Group**

### **Wednesdays 9:45am**

Open to all women of the parish. Seekers gathers on Wednesday morning to share prayer, community and a wide variety of study topics chosen by the group. Call Patrick Klein at ext. 12 for more information.

## **Great Adventure Bible Study**

### **Thursday Evenings 7pm—8:30pm OR Friday Mornings 10am—11:30am**

Are you interested in learning more about the Bible but don't know where to start? Does the Old Testament intimidate you? Does it seem like the books of the Bible are so jumbled up that you can't make sense of the story? If so, we have just the right Bible Study for you! Starting in the fall of 2009, we will embark on a wonderful journey through the Bible with Jeff Cavins as our guide. You will receive helpful tools to navigate through the Scriptures while gaining fascinating insights about each stage of Biblical history. Every session of this study features a captivating DVD presentation given by Jeff Cavins, solid Catholic teachings on the Scriptures at hand, great discussion questions that will help you dig deeper, and memorization tools that really work! Watch the bulletin for details or call Patrick Klein at ext. 12 for more information.

## **Eucharistic Adoration**

### **Tuesday evenings 7pm—8pm**

Spend some time in prayer before our Lord after daily Mass each Tuesday evening. Allow your love to grow as you adore our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

## **Men's Spirituality Program**

### **7:00pm-8:00pm- 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month**

All men of the parish (18 and older) are invited. Would you like to strengthen your relationship with God while learning more about God's plan for you as a man? Learn how to put your faith into action! Please join us for some enriching studies that are especially helpful for Men's Spiritual Growth.

## **Men of the Rosary**

### **Wednesday mornings 6am-6:30am**

Come place yourself under the care of Our Blessed Mother as we pray for the intentions of the men in our parish. All men of the parish are invited!

## **Young Adult Ministry (Y.A.M.)**

The Young Adult Ministry is an opportunity for young adults (ages 23-35) to get together to learn, serve and socialize. Come join us for some food, fun and fellowship at our next session. Our calendar of upcoming gatherings and events can be found on our website [www.stmyam.com](http://www.stmyam.com). Feel free to contact your YAM committee for more information at [stmyam@gmail.com](mailto:stmyam@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

## **Special Events**

- Groups for Returning Catholics
- Support Group for Adults Suffering from the Ending of a Love Relationship. This group is called S.O.U.L. (Seeking Oneself, Understanding Loss).
- Natural Family Planning Classes
- Pro-Life March

# FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND SAINT MONICA'S

