

# **Faith Formation Parent Booklet**



**ST. MONICA**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**2014-2015**

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*\*(Confirmation Booklet provided separately)*

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# General Information

## **Sacramental Preparation**

Per the Bishops guidelines, students attend faith formation classes **two consecutive school** years before receiving any of the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

## **Non- Baptized Youth**

Youth ages 7-13 who have not been baptized are prepared to celebrate Baptism and First Communion on the same day at the Easter Vigil. Confirmation is delayed until they reach 14 years of age.

Youth who are over the age of 14 and have not been baptized will receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil

Children who are baptized Christian but are not Baptized Catholic make a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church before they are fully initiated into the Church. This profession of faith is made at the Easter Vigil before they receive Confirmation and Eucharist.

## **Preparing for First Holy Communion**

Youth must be at least in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to receive First Holy Communion. Kindergarten is NOT considered first year of sacramental preparation for First Holy Communion.

## **Preparing For Confirmation**

Youth preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation may start their preparation as early as 7<sup>th</sup> grade and celebrate Confirmation in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist**

Baptized youth who are 14 and have not made First Communion and Confirmation celebrate these two Sacraments on the same day.

# Parental Responsibility

“The Christian family can and should be called the Domestic Church”  
Familiaris Consortio, St. John Paul II, 1981).

The Church recognizes the family as a domestic Church because parents are the first preachers of the faith to their children and because it is in the family where love, forgiveness, and trust should first be encountered. As such, every family should be considered a microcosm of the Church.

## **Tips to Raising Your Children Catholic at Home:**

1. Have a good marriage – love your spouse
2. Pray together every day
3. Prioritize your Time together – make your kids a priority
4. Participate in the Sacraments faithfully, without exception. Attend Mass every Sunday as a family
5. Eat together as much as possible
6. Discipline your kids
7. Protect your kids from the culture, but don't isolate them from it
8. Know your faith
9. Teach your kids your faith
10. Live your faith

## **Ten Ways to Make Sure Your Kids Leave the Church:**

1. Never pray, especially together
2. Keep a Bible in the house and never read it
3. Don't keep the Sabbath holy
4. Curse, yell and treat other people badly
5. Don't tell your kids you love them or show affection
6. Don't discuss religion in your home
7. Don't know and understand your faith
8. Don't explain why they shouldn't have sex before marriage, do drugs, etc.
9. Never say you are sorry
10. Never go to confession

# Regular Class Schedule

## Kinder—5th Grade

Classes are every Sunday from 3:15—4:45 p.m. Children are dropped off in the Cafeteria where they will meet with their teachers.

Classes begin on September 7, 2014 and end May 17th, 2015.

There are NO classes on the following dates:

- \*September 28th
- \*November 30th
- \*December 21st
- \*December 28th
- \*March 8th
- \*April 5th
- \* May 10th

## 6th—12th Grade

Classes are every Wednesday evening from 6:30—8:00 p.m. Students are dropped off in the Cafeteria.

Classes begin on September 10, 2014 and end May 13, 2015.

There are NO classes on the following dates:

- November 26th
- December 24th
- December 31st
- \* February 18th
- \*March 11th
- \*April 1st

***\*On inclement weather days families will be notified via text about class cancellations.***

# RCIA Adapted for Children

## Calendar

Children follow the regular class schedule and also attend the following liturgical events with their sponsor:

**Rite of Acceptance:** November 9th at 9:30 a.m. Mass

**Rite of Election:** End of February Date TBA

**Scrutinies:** Third, fourth and fifth Sunday of Lent at 9:30 a.m. Mass

**RCIA Rehearsal:** March 30, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

**Easter Vigil:** April 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

Parents are also expected to attend parent teacher meetings which will be conducted four times a year. The teacher will offer the session twice so that parents who have multiple children can attend both sessions. Parents also have to attend 5 out of 25 parent faith formation events. Schedule will be released in the fall.

### **Kinder—5th grade**

Conferences are in the classrooms from 10:00– 10:30 and 10:30– 11:00 a.m.

September 13th, November 8th, January 24th and March 7th

### **6th—12th grade**

Conferences are in the classrooms from 11:30– 12 and from 12:00—12:30 p.m.

September 13th, November 8th, January 24th and March 7th

# **RCIA Adapted for Children**

## **Information**

### **What is RCIA Adapted for Children and Teenagers?**

RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. In this class, we are adapting the RCIA process for children and teenagers. The goal of RCIA Adapted is to prepare youth for full Christian initiation into the Catholic Church. This process culminates with the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. If a child is not yet 14, Confirmation is delayed until they are fourteen.

### **Who can serve as a Godparent?**

Children and Youth who have not been baptized are required to select at least one Godparent. Two Godparents are permitted. If two, they should be male and female. The role of a Godparent is to help the parents raise the youth in the Catholic faith. For this reason, the person selected should be an active and practicing Catholic. The person should be fully initiated (having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), be at least 16 years of age, they must be someone other than the youth's parents, and, if married, married in the Catholic Church.

### **What Do Godparents Need to Bring or Do?**

Godparents are expected to take a Baptism preparation class before Easter. Classes are offered at the beginning of each month at St. Monica from 10—12 p.m. in English and from 1:00—4:00 p.m. in Spanish in Room 109. If Godparents do not live in Dallas, they can attend a Baptism class at their own parish. Godparents should submit a Sponsor Covenant form which can be downloaded from our website and turned into Church office. If Godparents are in town, it is expected for them to attend the Rites, Scrutinies, Rehearsal and Easter Vigil.

# First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation Calendar

Youth follow the normal class schedule and also attend the following events:

## **Scavenger Hunt in the Church\*:**

November 22nd at 10 a.m. Church

At this event, our priest will explain the Mass to the children and the religious articles that are used during the Mass will be laid out around the Church. Children will go by from station to station learning about the Church and the Mass. Parents are suppose to accompany their children.

*\*This event is for children in grades 2nd—4th grade.*

## **First Reconciliation (Confession)**

February 28th at 9:30 a.m. in the Church

Parents are expected to stay with their children until they are done making their First Confession.

## **First Holy Communion Rehearsal**

May 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Church

## **First Holy Communion Picture Dates**

April 28th and April 29th from 4:00—7:00 p.m. Church

(Appt. made through the office of faith formation).

**First Holy Communion Day** : May 9th at 10 a.m. in the Church



# **First Holy Communion**

## **Information**

### **First Holy Communion Attire**

#### **GIRLS**

Girls are to wear a white modest dress; sandals or dressy shoes; a veil but the veil is optional. Girls should not wear gloves.

A few places where dresses can be purchased at are Burlington Coat Factory, JC Penny or Dillard's.

#### **BOYS**

Boys are to wear a white, navy or black suit or sport coat and tie. They should wear a long sleeve white shirt and dressy shoes. No tennis shoes.

#### **Religious articles**

It is customary for children to receive religious articles or presents for their First Holy Communion. These articles may include rosary, bible, prayer booklets, scapulars. They will be blessed by our Pastor at the reception. Sacred Heart Store on Coit and Campbell Road in north Dallas is a store where these articles can be purchased.

#### **Reception**

A reception with cake and punch is held in the small gym after Mass. All are invited to the reception. Certificates can be picked at the reception.

#### **First Holy Communion Mass**

Students should report to their classroom at 9 a.m. From there children will have their class picture taken. First Holy Communion Mass is at 10 a.m. in the Church.

## Communication from the Parish

Parents will be receiving reminders about parent meetings, rehearsals, and other important dates via text.

In case of inclement weather days, families will be notified via text if class is canceled.

In order to receive text messages, you will need to opt in. To opt in, please text the following number: **84576** and text the word: **Monica**.

If your phone number changes, please unsubscribe yourself and opt in again so we have a current number in file for you.

## Attendance Policy

Although the most important religious formation that children receives starts in the home, it is important for children to attend religious education classes on a regular basis. If a child is absent, the child should catch up by doing some work at home. This involves contacting the teacher via email and asking the teacher for the work that the student needs to cover at home before the next class. Children will be assigned work to turn in for the next class. If a child makes up the work that was missed, the absence is excused. **If a child has five or more unexcused absences we will drop the student from the class.** The teacher's email will be given at the first parent teacher conference (schedule in the back).

# **Carpool Information**

## **Sundays**

Students should be dropped off by the cafeteria on Sundays and Wednesdays. Pick up is through the far west entrance through Midway.

On Sunday's students in grades Kinder—3rd grade will wait by the side of the cafeteria for pick up. Students in grade 4th and 5th will wait by the playground. Students will be outside waiting with their teachers by 4:45 p.m.

Students who have siblings that attend RE on the same day will wait on the left hand side. Cars need to be on the left hand lane will be directed to the left side.

Students who do not have siblings in RE will be picked on the right hand side and cars need to be on the right hand lane.

Before the school year begins, we will mail home a sign that can be placed in your car. We will read out the name on the sign to help call out your student's name.

Because we have Mass at 5 p.m. the parking lot must be free for those attending mass. We encourage everyone not to take up a parking space and use the carpool lane (unless you are going to 5 p.m. Mass).

## **Wednesdays**

Because it is dark in the winter, the safest way to handle pick up is by having students picked up in one location by the cafeteria. We will follow the same car pool instructions as described above. 6th—8th wait by cafeteria and 9th—12th grade wait by the playground in front of the football field.

# Parent Catechesis and Meetings

St. Monica understands the daunting task that parents have in being the first heralds of the Gospel in the home. Thus, throughout the year St. Monica will offer catechesis (religious education classes) for adults. All parents are invited to attend, however, parents who have children receiving Sacraments are strongly encouraged to attend 5 out of the 25 faith formation opportunities that will be offered throughout the year.

A complete listing of the parent faith formation opportunities being offered in 2014-2015 will be available September 2014. The list of opportunities will be given out by your child's teacher and will be available online and in the Office.

Parents must also attend 4 parent teacher meetings. The meetings are for both first year and second year students.

Meetings will be held in your child's classroom. A letter with your child's room and teacher assignment will be sent out in September.

## **Dates and times of the parent meetings:**

### **Kinder—5th grade**

Conferences are in the classrooms from 10:00- 10:30 and 10:30-11:00 a.m.

**September 13th, November 8th, January 24th and March 7th**

### **6th—12th grade**

Conferences are in the classrooms from 11:30- 12 and from 12:00—12:30 p.m.

**September 13th, November 8th, January 24th and March 7th**