

Faith Formation Parent Booklet



ST. MONICA
CATHOLIC CHURCH

2016-2017

Table of Contents

General Information	3
Parental Responsibility	4
Regular Class Calendar	5
RCIA Adapted for Children Calendar	6
RCIA Adapted for Children Information	7
First Holy Communion Calendar	8
First Holy Communion Information	9
Communication from the Parish and Attendance	10
Carpool and Drop Off Information	11
Parent Meetings and Catechesis	12

**(Confirmation Booklet provided separately)*

The Office of Faith Formation

214.357.8549

Mariangela Byrne

Director of Faith Formation

mbyrne@stmonicachurch.org

Eldie Diaz de Flores

Administrative Assistant

ediaz@stmonicachurch.org

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. In 2017, this date will be April 22, 2017 at 10 a.m. 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 on April 15, 2017.

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 2nd 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 7th grade and celebrate Confirmation in the 8th 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

Class Schedule

Pk 3, 4, and Kindergarten

Classes begin September 11 and will be held at 11 a.m. in the Family Center.

First—6th 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.

First Day of Class: September 11, 2016

Last Day of Class, May 7, 2017.

7th—12th Grade

**Parent Meeting for all Confirmation Year 1 & 2 students:
August 1, 2016 7:00 p. m. in Family Center Room 201**

Retreat for all students: August 26, 27, 28 at Sky Ranch

Class every Sunday from 6:15—8:15, Family Center Gym

Kick off for the Year: September 11, 2016

Last day of class: April 30, 2017

There are NO classes on the following dates:

- * September 25th (for 1st -6th grade only)
- * November 27th
- * December 18, 25
- * January 1st
- * January 15th
- * March 5th (7-12th grade only)
- * March 12th
- * April 16th

****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 6, 2016; 9:30 a.m.

Church Tour- Passport to Heaven

February 4, 2017 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. (2nd—4th Grade)

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.

Rite of Election: End of February Date TBA

Scrutinies: Third, fourth and fifth Sunday of Lent at 9:30 a.m.
Mass, March 19th and 26th and April 2, 2017

RCIA Rehearsal for 8th-12 grade:

April 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

8th-12th Grade Easter Vigil:

April 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

RCIA Rehearsal for 2nd -7th Grade: April 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Baptism and First Communion Grades 2-7:

April 22, 2017 at 10 a.m. in the Church.

RCIA First Confessions: May 2, 2017 at 7:00 pm

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, please call the office to register for the class at 214-358-1453. 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:

Church Tour- Passport to Heaven

February 4, 2017

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. (2nd—4th Grade)

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.

First Reconciliation (Confession)

February 25, 2017 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 Picture Dates

April 25 and 26 from 4:00—8:00 p.m. in the Church.

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

First Holy Communion Rehearsal

May 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. students report to their classroom.

First Holy Communion : May 6, 2017 at 10 a.m. in the Church (report to classroom one hour before).

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 weathers 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**.

Text the word that applies to your child:

Prek	students in Pre-K3,4, and Kinder
Sped	students in the special education class
Monica1-6	students in 1st year prep in grades 1-6
FHC2-6	students in First Holy Communion in grades 2-6
RCIC2-6	students in Baptism & FHC in grades 2-6
Monica7-11	students in 1st year prep in grades 7 - 11
FHC7	students in First Holy Communion in grade 7
RCIC7	students in Baptism & FHC in grade 7
Conf-FHC	students in confirmation & FHC in grades 8 - 12
Confir	students in confirmation in grades 8 - 12
RCIC 8-12	students in Baptism & FHCy confirmation in grades 8-12

*If there are any changes with your cell phone provider or phone number please let the office know immediately otherwise you risk missing important information for your child

Attendance Policy

Students who are absent must make up their work by emailing their teacher and receiving an assignment that they will do at home to submit the following week. Only after the work is made up, will the child's absence will be excused.

The teacher's email address/Contact information will be given out at the first parent meetings.

If a child has five or more unexcused absences we will drop the student from the class.

Carpool Information

1st - 6th Grade (3:15 pm - 4:45 pm)

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 1st —3rd grade will wait by the side of the cafeteria for pick up. Students in grade 4th - 6th 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 at the same time 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).

7th- 12th Grade (6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.)

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 family center. We do not have car pool for the upper grades, but all students must wait by the family center to be picked up there.

Please make sure that you do not ask students to wait on their own across the street or in the neighborhood.

Parent Faith Formation

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 2016-2017 will be available in September. The list of opportunities will be given out by your child's teacher and will be available online and in the Church office.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

All parents are required to attend the first parent meeting on September 18, 2016 and all subsequent parent teacher meetings. The meeting will be held at your child's normal class time. The meeting will last no more than 20—25 minutes. If you have more than one child, the teachers will be conducting the same meeting twice on the same day, back to back.

For instance, you may attend from 3:15 to 3:35 and then go to the next child's class from 4:00—4:25.

The parent teacher meetings are:

September 18th, October 30th, and March 19th

***It is required for parents to attend to receive all logistical information and to learn how their child is doing in class.**