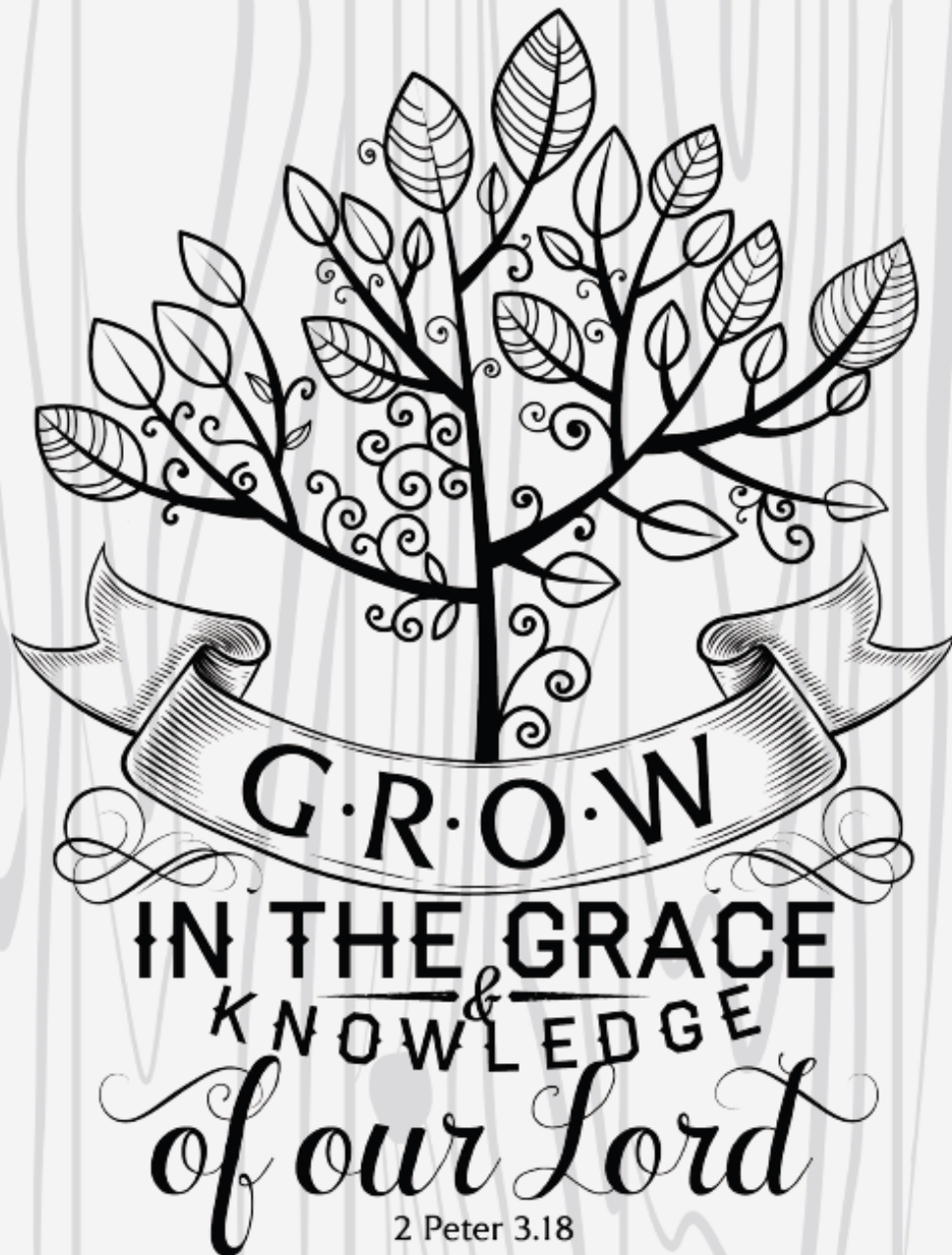


ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

# 2018-19 FAITH FORMATION PARENT BOOKLET

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*(CONFIRMATION INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED SEPARATELY)*

## The Office of Faith Formation

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# General Information

## Children's Faith Formation

St. Monica offers faith formation classes for children in grades Kinder—7th grade. Students in grades 1st-7th grade attend Faith Formation once week on Sunday afternoons from 3:15-4:45 p.m. Each class has two safe environment cleared adults in the classroom. One adult is the lead catechist and the second adult is a catechist aid. St. Monica uses Loyola Press's Finding God curriculum. For more information, please visit about the curriculum please visit: [loyolapress.com](http://loyolapress.com).

## Parental Role and Responsibility

Parents are the first heralds of the Gospel within the domestic Church which is the family. This means that parents have a primary role introducing the faith to their children. It is within the family that children first come to know who Jesus is and have personal relationship with Christ. We encourage parents to pray daily, to read scripture together, to attend mass every Sunday, to celebrate the liturgical year, to pray the rosary as a family, and most importantly to introduce their children to the love of God.

The role of the parish is to support parents as they introduce children to God. As a way to help and encourage parents in their primary responsibility as catechists in the home, we will provide parents with the opportunity to study the Catholic faith at St. Monica using Bishops Barron's Catholicism Series. This dynamic study series will be offered on Sunday afternoons while children are in class.

**\*Parents with children in their second year of sacramental preparation attend 10 faith formation classes. Parent faith formation is offered in the library meeting room while students are in class.**

## RCIA Adapted for Children (Non-Baptized Youth)

The Rite of Christian Initiation for youth is the process of conversion into the Catholic Church. Youth ages 7-13 who are not baptized are prepared to be brought into full communion with the Church through Baptism and Eucharist. Confirmation is delayed until 14 years of age. Unbaptized youth who are 14 years of age (8th grade) or older will receive all three sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil.

All youth are prepared be brought into the Church after participating in RCIA for one academic year. Parents also attend RCIA when youth are in RCIA.

## First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

The Church considers 7 years of age as the age of reason. Therefore, children typically make their First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation in second grade. Children start preparing for First Holy Communion as early as first grade and receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in second grade. Children older than 7 are also prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist after preparing for two consecutive school years.

## **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

## Kinder - 7th Grade

First day: September 9, 2018

Last day: May 5, 2019

Classes are on Sunday from 3:15-4:45 p.m.

### No Class on the Following Dates

\*There is class every Sunday except on the following dates:

September 30	Spaghetti Dinner
November 25	Thanksgiving
December 23 & 30	Christmas Break
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr.
February 2	Special Event
March 11	Spring Break
April 20	Easter

## Parent Faith Formation

Parents are expected to attend 10 faith formation opportunities the year their child is making their First Communion. The purpose of these classes are to help form parents in their Catholic faith. This year classes will be offered in English in the Library Meeting Room while students are in class. Bishop Barron's study on the Mass will be the first program of study being offered to parents.

## Parent Conferences Dates

At St. Monica we want to keep parents abreast of their child's progress and how children are doing in class by meeting with parents three times a year during the school year. On these dates, parents come to class with their child.

**September 23rd** - Meet the catechist, learn class and program expectations, attendance policy.

**January 6**—Midyear mark. Catechists will keep parents informed on children's progress, and keep parents abreast about First Communion.

**April 7**—Last meeting of the year with parents to let parents know how children are doing.

# RCIA Adapted for Children and Teens

Students in 2nd - 12th grade will have RCIA classes on Sundays from 12:00—1:45 p.m. in the Family Center every Sunday starting September 9, 2018.

## RCIA Schedule

**These are special events that children attend in addition to coming to class on Sunday afternoons.**

September 9	First Day
December 2	Rite of Acceptance (2 p.m. Spanish, 9:30 a.m. English)
February (TBD)	Rite of Election
March 24	First Scrutiny (2 p.m. Spanish, 9:30 a.m. English)
March 31	Second Scrutiny (2 p.m. Spanish, 9:30 a.m. English)
April 7	Third Scrutiny (2 p.m. Spanish, 9:30 a.m. English)
April 8	Easter Vigil Rehearsal
April 20	Easter
May 5	Last Day of Class
May 18	First Confessions 3:30 p.m.

## RCIA Adapted for Children and Teens

### Information

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

RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. The goal of RCIA Adapted is to prepare youth for 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.

#### Who is RCIA for?

RCIA is for teens or children over 7 years of age who have not been baptized. RCIA prepares children to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (Confirmation is often delayed until age 14).

#### How long is RCIA?

RCIA starts in September and ends in May. Children and teens are received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

#### Who is eligible to 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, the should be male and female. The role of a Godparent is to set a Christian example for the child and to support parents in helping raise the child Catholic. For this reason, the person selected should be an active and practicing Catholic. The person should also be fully initiated (having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), be at least 16 years of age, and must be someone other than the child's parents.

#### What documentation must a Godparent provide to the Church?

Godparents must provide a recently issued Baptism certificate with notations on the back of what Sacraments they have received to date.

Godparents must also provide a letter from their parish stating they have permission to serve as Godparents.

Godparents must also take a Baptism preparation class at St. Monica or at their local parish and provide receipt of having taken the class.

If Godparents are married, they should be married in the Catholic Church and provide a marriage certificate from the Church where they were married.

#### RCIA for Parents

Parents who have children in RCIA sign up for RCIA. RCIA is for adults who are not baptized, are baptized Christian in another faith tradition or have been baptized Catholic but have not received Eucharist and Confirmation. RCIA can also be for Catholics who have children going through RCIA adapted for children.

RCIA for English speaking adults are on Monday evenings from 7–9:00 p.m. and start September 10, 2018.

# First Communion Calendar

These are special events that children attend in addition to coming to class on Sunday afternoons.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
11/6/2018	6:30 p.m.	First Confession (2nd & 3rd grade)	Church
11/13/2018	6:30 p.m.	First Confession (4th & 5th grade)	Church
11/20/2018	6:30 p.m.	First Confession (6th & 7th grade)	Church
11/27/2018	6:30 p.m.	First Confession (8th & H.S)	Church
01/12/2019	8:00 a.m.	First Communion Workshop	All Campus
4/23/2019	4:00 p.m.	First Communion Portraits	Church
4/24/2019	4:00 p.m.	First Communion Portraits	Church
4/25/2019	6:30 p.m.	First Holy Communion Rehearsal	Church
4/27/2019	9:00 a.m.	First Holy Communion Mass	Church

\*Spanish speaking families follow a different schedule.

## First Holy Communion Information

### First Holy Communion Attire

#### GIRLS

Girls are to wear a white modest dress and dressy shoes. Girls may wear a veil. Girls should not wear gloves.

A few places where First Holy Communion dresses can be purchased at are Burlington Coat Factory, JC Penny or Dillard's, Sacred Heart Catholic store in Richardson.

#### 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.

### First Holy Communion Mass

Students should arrive at 8 a.m. and report to their classroom an hour before Mass begins.

### Reception

A reception is held in the small gym after Mass. All are invited to the reception for cupcakes and punch.

# Carpool Information on Sundays

## Kinder- 7th (3:15 pm - 4:45 pm) - Drop off Procedure

Students in grades Kinder—7 are escorted to class by parents.

Students in grades 8th grade will be dropped off at the family center. Students should be dropped off at 3 p.m.

## Kinder—7th (4:45 p.m. ) - Pick up Procedure

A carpool procedure is in place for pick up. Please see attached carpool map for instructions for carpool.

Kinder—4th grade students will wait outside by the west side of the Cafeteria.

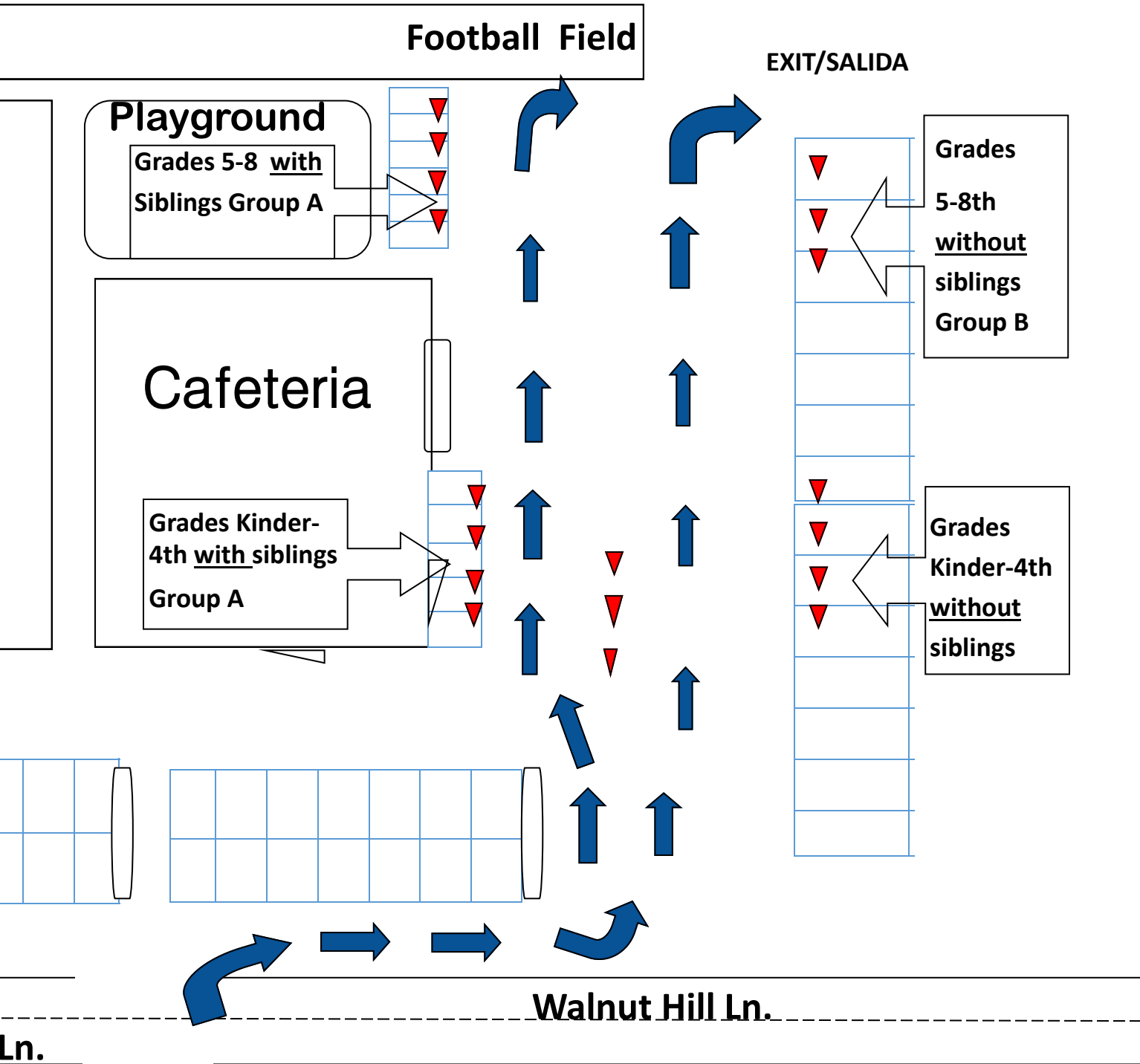
5th—8th grade students will wait outside by the playground behind the Cafeteria.

There are two lanes for pickup. One lane (lane A) is for siblings and the other lane, (lane B), is for students who do not have siblings in the program.

\*8th grade students are asked to come over from the family to join their siblings for pick up.


Walnut Hill





**CAR POOL ROUTE FOR SUNDAYS**

# 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:**

<b>Kinder</b>	students in Kinder
<b>Sped</b>	students in the special education class
<b>Monica1-7</b>	students in 1st year prep in grades 1-7
<b>FHC2-7</b>	students in First Holy Communion in grades 2-7
<b>RCIC2-7</b>	students in RCIA for children grades 2-7
<b>RCIC8-12</b>	students in Baptism, FHC and confirmation in grades 8-12

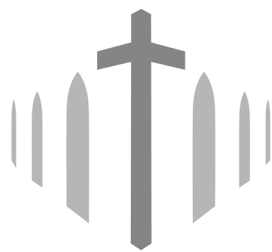
\*If there are any changes with your cell phone provider or phone number please let the office know immediately otherwise you risk missing important information for your child

## Attendance Policy

Since children attend class only once a week, we want to ensure that children attend class each week. Attendance is taken each week at the beginning of class. If a child is absent, parents are expected to approach the catechist (teacher), request the assignment the child missed, make up the work at home, and bring back a completed assignment to the catechist. After the make up work is reviewed by the catechist, the catechist will change the unexcused absence to an excused absence.

Children may not have more than 3 unexcused absences or they will be dropped from the program.





ST. MONICA

CATHOLIC CHURCH