

St. Charles Borromeo Church

2021-2022 Children's Religious Education Program

Growing closer to Christ together

Our parish Faith Formation program seeks to be a place of growth for the whole family. It is not meant to be "just another class" but a time for you and your child to come in contact with God in a personal way and learn how to be "disciples" or followers of Jesus.

A disciple is someone who:

- has a personal *friendship with Jesus*
- fosters that friendship through *prayer and Sunday Mass*
- *tries to be like Jesus* in their daily lives – loving and serving others
- *brings other people to get to know Jesus too* through their words and example

All elements of our program aim to offer you and your children opportunities to grow as disciples together as a family, aware that you are also part of the larger parish family!

Contact Info

<i>Staff</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone #</i>	<i>Email</i>
Pastor	Fr. Michal Twaruzek	(630) 860-1120	fathertwaruzek@stcbparish.org
Parish Bookkeeper (takes care of all tuition/payment records)	Sheila Reiter	(630) 860-1120	sheila@stcbparish.org
Director of Religious Education	Tammy Campeotto	Office (630) 766-8822 Cell (331) 979-1562	reoffice@stcbparish.org

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Catechist</i>	<i>Phone #</i>	<i>Email</i>
1	Lisa Boswell	708-606-3672	lisaboswell625@gmail.com
1 aide	Alyssa Kachappilly	224-817-1782	allychipmunk537@gmail.com
2	Michelle Juran	630-254-4379	ham29@sbcglobal.net
3	Sandra Nevarez	630-392-3128	nevarezmmaps@yahoo.com
4 & 5	Chris Petersen	630-337-0529	kcpetersen4@gmail.com
6	Rose Ann Abraham	312-286-4917	roseannemmanuel@gmail.com
7	Isabel Kachappilly	331-703-5508	izzybel927@gmail.com
8	Jennie Barr	630-892-0583	jmbapple611@gmail.com

Communication

Email and flyers sent home with the children have been the primary means of communication from the Faith Formation office, however, try out a couple of our other options:

- **Website** www.stcbparish.org
 - Our parish website has a “Faith Formation” page where info is posted.
- **Facebook** www.facebook.com/stcbparish
 - Follow us to see reminders, photos of events, and other helpful resources.
- **Pinterest** www.pinterest.com/stcbparish
 - Visit our page often to learn more about Catholic parenting, prayers, crafts, traditions and more.

Weekly Sessions, attendance & supplies

- Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:45 p.m.
- Please have your children to the school building early so classes can begin promptly.
- Your children’s attendance at weekly classes is expected. Excessive absences may require child to repeat a “grade level,” especially in a sacrament prep year.
- If your child will not be able to attend a specific class, please notify the Faith Formation Office prior to the class, and we will notify the given catechist.
- Children in grades 1-5 will be given a **Catholic Children’s Bible** in their first year. They will be using the same bible all 5 years. Please keep it in a safe place, or better yet use it often so you know where it is.
- Children in grades 6-8 will be given the **New American Bible** in their first year of “middle school”. They will be using the same bible all 3 years. Please keep it in a safe place, or better yet use it often so you know where it is.
- **Students who lose their bibles will be charged the cost of the replacement. (Catholic Children’s Bible \$40. New American Bible \$10.)**
- Children will be given a **folder** for taking home any homework or information for you.
- Please **check the folders weekly** and be sure your child brings the folder to class with any assigned homework completed.

Whole Family Sessions

Due to COVID-19 to keep everyone safe, we will be having *Whole Family Sessions To Go* again this year. Whole Family Night on the calendar means there is no in person class.

- ~~• We will continue to gather the whole family on certain nights for activities, crafts, and prayers. (Please see the calendar for these nights.) We will follow all COVID 19 protocols.~~
- ~~• One or both parents are asked to attend these nights (or another adult family member.)~~
- ~~• Enter through the doors near the gym to check in.~~

Activity Bags

This year every student in grades 1-5 will bring home an activity bag every week. The bag will be different every week. Some bags may need parent involvement and some the kids can do by themselves. The activity bag is just that, an extra activity to help the students learn something new outside of the classroom. Each bag will have specific directions in it. The bags are to be kept at home for one week and then returned to class so someone else can take it home. Your child will not be able to take a new bag home until the current bag is returned.

COVID-19 protocol- when bags are returned to school they will remain at school for at least one week before being sent home again.

Prayer

Friendships are built by talking with another. Friendship with God is built by talking with Him in prayer. To **assist the kids in learning to connect with God in a very personal way**, our catechists will continue to use various prayer forms, such as **guided reflections and *lectio divina*** (“Divine Reading”). Prayer experiences will include the use of Scripture, silence, and ritual gestures and symbols. All of which seek to put the children directly in touch with God, teach them to recognize his voice in their hearts, and familiarize them with the language of symbols and gestures which are part of our rich Catholic tradition of liturgical prayer. At times prayer is more individual (giving the child a chance to speak to and listen to God) and at times more communal (done as a class group together).

In addition, children will be required to **memorize traditional Catholic prayers** at home. Children will be given a prayer book with the prayers and a list of what they are expected to learn at their grade level. This is a great opportunity for your family to pray together.

Mass Reflection Sheets

Each child in grades 1-6 will receive a **Family Mass Reflection** sheet at the beginning of the month. After one Sat. or Sun. mass each month (doesn't matter which weekend, what time you go to Mass, even if you go to Mass at another parish, or watched it on tv at home), please **reflect together as a family on your experience at Mass and how you experienced God**. Fill out and sign the reflection and have your youngest or only child hand it in to their catechist each month. One reflection per family. Or you can fill out the online version found on our website.

Each child in grades 7 and 8 will receive a **Mass Reflection** sheet at the beginning of the month. The 7th or 8th grader is expected to fill out the mass reflection sheet each month and return it to their catechist.

Instead of a **Family Mass Reflection** sheet, a kid's bulletin may be completed and turned in. The kid's bulletins can be found in the narthex after mass if you forget to pick one up at mass. In this case, a kid's bulletin would need to be done by each child.

Loving and Serving Others

We may find ourselves wondering sometimes what we really have to contribute to the Church or if our presence really matters. But the Church relies on the fact that each and every individual member is an essential part of the ongoing mission and ministry of Jesus. We are all called to embrace an active and engaged role in spreading the Good News through both word and deed. Simply put, the Church needs our unique gifts. Allow yourself time to consider what being part of the Catholic Church means to you and how you respond to the Church's call that says: "You are an important member of this community. You belong here." (Taken from 2nd grade Go Seek Find Eucharist prep)

All the programs will follow COVID-19 protocols and may need to be postponed based on current guidelines.

Jesus spent His life doing good. As disciples, we are called to do the same. **To teach the kids this Christian way of life, each family is asked to participate in at least one Family Involvement Group (see separate flyer)**

Sacrament Preparation

Children in second grade will prepare for their First Reconciliation and First Communion.

- See the calendar and future communications regarding special events and requirements.

Children in eighth grade will prepare for their Confirmation.

- See the calendar and future communications regarding special events and requirements.

The diocese ordinarily requires two years of preparation for First Reconciliation & First Communion, and for Confirmation. St. Charles Borromeo's programming meets this requirement. It is *only fair to the students* that we adequately prepare them, and it is *truly fitting that we be conscientious in how we approach the sacraments*, moments of grace that they are, deserving a readiness and preparedness in those who receive them.

As a result, **those entering our program in 2nd or 8th grade seeking sacraments without having completed 1st or 7th grade in our program** (or giving written proof of having completed these grades in another parish's program) **will be required to "go back a year" in Faith Formation to complete two full years of preparation.**

Children who are in 3rd – 7th grade and in need of Baptism, First Reconciliation, or First Communion are required to attend Wednesday night classes with their grade level for two years and can receive the sacraments in the second year. Parents are required to attend all sacrament preparation meetings/retreats during the second year. If your children fall into this category, please contact the office to make arrangements.

Other Practical Items

Registration & Tuition

- Registration forms must be completed and handed in to the Faith Formation Office.
- The registration fee must be paid at the beginning of the year.
- The rest of the sum may be paid in installments.
- An invoice will be sent to your home.
- Make checks payable to “St. Charles Borromeo”
- You may drop off or mail payments to the parish office or give them directly to Tammy on Wednesday nights.
- Questions about the balance of your account can be directed to the parish bookkeeper, Sheila Reiter (630-860-1120).
- Tuition assistance is available for families in need. Please ask Tammy for a form.

Code of Behavior

Our catechists and classroom aides are all generous **volunteers** who deserve your child’s respect. Speak to your children about basic good behavior at Faith Formation sessions.

- Dress appropriately (see guidelines below)
- **No food is allowed in the classrooms. Water in a closed container is the only allowed drink permitted in the classroom every week.**
- Students should wait in the hallway and not enter the classroom until an adult is present.
- Cell phones should be silenced and secured in a pocket or out of sight. Cell phone use is allowed and is at the discretion of the catechist.
- Catechists reserve the right to confiscate cell phones during class if it is necessary.
- St. Charles Borromeo is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken cell phones.

Disruptive Behavior

First Step: Catechist will speak to the child in class.

Second Step: Catechist will make the DRE aware of the situation. Parents will be contacted if necessary and asked to speak to their child.

Third Step: Parent will be asked to attend class with their child until the behavior is corrected.

*The Faith Formation Office reserves the right to ask a family to withdraw their child from the program if the child’s recurring poor behavior is so disruptive as to impede the rest of the class from learning.

Dress Code

- As recognition of their own dignity and a sign of respect to catechists and classmates alike, students are asked to dress appropriately for Faith Formation classes.
- Torn or ripped clothing, sagging pants, and exposed undergarments are prohibited.
- Exposed midriffs, low-cut blouses or tops, mini-skirts and bare feet are not permitted.
- Hats are not permitted

Use of Medication

- No medication is to be administered during classes by the child or by parish staff or volunteers.

Medical Emergencies

- Medical aid will be sought as needed and parents notified immediately.
- An additional emergency contact is required on the registration form.

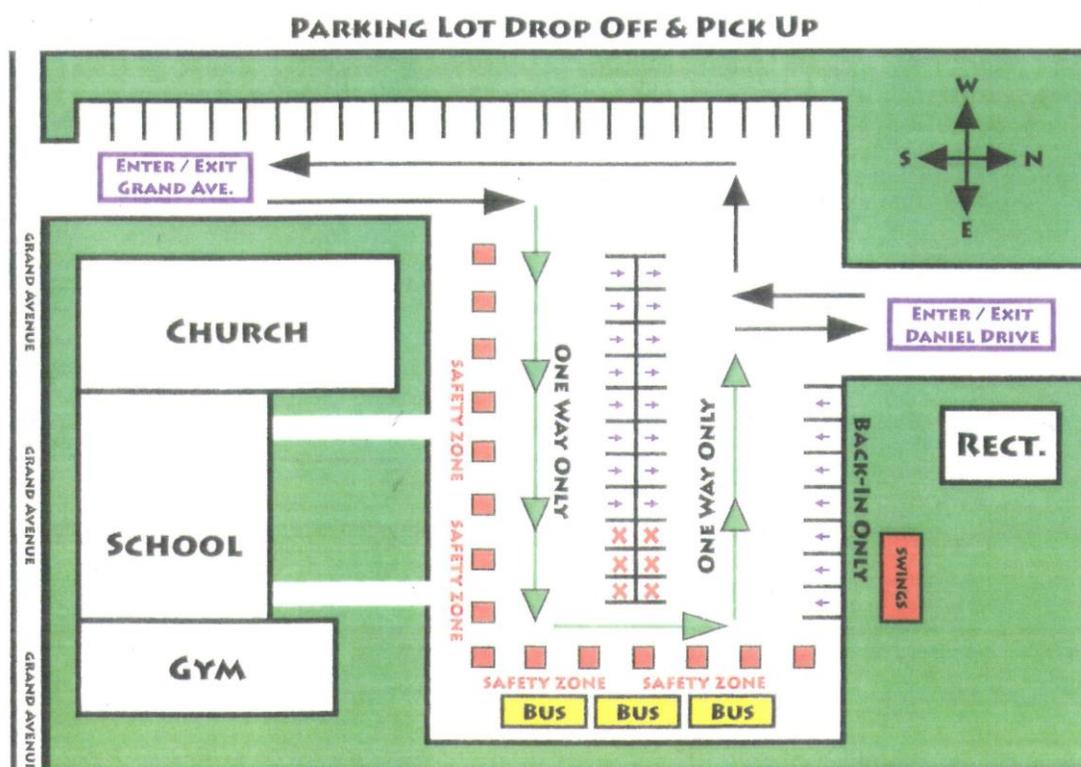
Drop-off and Dismissal

It is a constant challenge to find the best system for safe and smooth dismissal procedures. Please help us by following the procedure described below.

- **Everyone entering the building must wear a mask.**
- The **east door** nearest the gym, from the north parking lot, will be the only door open for use on Wednesday evenings to facilitate monitoring those who enter/exit the building.
- Parents **may drop-off their children by the door.**
- **Catechists of grades 1-3 will walk the children out to the parking lot at 7:45pm.**
- **Grades 4-8 will be dismissed at 7:45 and are free to meet their parents out in the parking lot.**

To make the parking lot a safer place, we will follow the procedure described below for PICK-UP. We need everyone's cooperation to make this work!

- You may **enter/exit** the parking lot **via Grand Ave. and/or Daniel Dr.** However, everyone must be careful in **forming ONE line** coming and going in the parking lot, merging when necessary.
- **Traffic will flow in only ONE direction once in the lot.** All cars in the lot should only be making a giant U around the safety zone. The map of the parking lot clearly shows the one direction cars should be moving.
- **Parents can pick their students up on the long sidewalk outside or at their car.** Catechists of young students will stay with them until they are picked up. We are **trying to limit the number of people who come in and out of the building.**
- Please drive with extra caution!



Class Cancellation

For emergency cancellation of classes due to weather, "St. Charles Borromeo Faith Formation" is registered with [emergencyclosingcenter.com](http://www.emergencyclosingcenter.com). You can do a status search at their website. Cancellations will also be posted or announced on CBS, ABC, NBC, Fox, WGN TV, and local radio (720 AM and 780 AM).

Some Great Family Resources

<http://www.common sense media.org> -- wonderful guidelines and tips for navigating the digital world of media with your kids. They provide movie reviews etc.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/> -- provides the Sunday readings for each week with possible activities/conversations for kids of various ages.

<https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/> - our textbook series website with lots of family resources

<https://www.catholicmommyblogs.com/> - Catholic blogs, crafts, resources, etc.

Safe Environment

In an effort to ensure the safety of our children, the Diocese of Joliet makes certain **requirements of parish staff and volunteers**. Our Program will abide by these rules by providing volunteer training in recognizing signs of child abuse, by keeping the necessary files and volunteer background checks updated, and by following basic precautionary procedures.

Certain information must be made available to parents about protecting children *from* and instructing them *about* sexual abuse. These materials are on our website. (*Parent Guide: Understanding & Preventing Child Sexual Abuse* and *Parent Guide: Internet Safety for Children and Teens*.) Additional materials for families new to the program (*Diocesan Pastoral Policy regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults* and *Standards of Behavior for those working with minors*) can also be found on our website. <https://www.stcbparish.org/faith-formation>

Certain instruction must be made available to children about safety in this regard. In the past, we provided a 20 minute session to all our students once a year. Now that all schools are required by law to provide this instruction, (we have written proof from the area schools confirming that this instruction is taking place) we no longer need to provide this instruction ourselves.