

Dear Parents,

We, at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church, are happy to offer you and your family a program on Religious Education. Although during this time and with the current situation and its uncertainty we may experience anxiety and fear, rest assured that we, are praying for you and your family and will be working hard to help you with your family's religious education.

We thank you for making the time for your child's faith formation and choosing to help them receive their sacraments.

In this handbook, you will find this year's Religious Education calendar, sacramental preparation guidelines, and the prayers for you to study and pray with your child/ren.

We, as a Parish, are here to serve you with help in the formation of your child's faith while you as a family serve each other at home. As parents, we are called by God to have the first responsibility for the education of your children. Parents are to bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. (CCC 2223)

Participating in Sunday Mass and receiving Religious Education are top priorities in the lives of Catholic Christians. Attending Sunday Mass regularly is central to your spiritual growth as a family.

Although COVID-19 has affected our day to day lives, our families, our communities, and the way we perform our ministries, please know that we are here to help ensure that we will continue to provide the resources needed for your family to continue practicing their faith.

We will make every effort to have constant communication with you via email, parish app, website, or phone calls regarding events or parent meetings which will help to enrich your spirituality, draw you closer to Jesus and keep you up to date on Catholic beliefs and practices.

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church is dedicated to preventing the transmission of COVID-19. We are following CDC guidelines for sanitation, social distancing and face coverings. Even with these precautions, infections are still possible and may result in serious illness or even death. If you have concerns about your child's safety or your child or someone in your household is in a vulnerable population, you may opt to have your child participate in religious education on-line or by correspondence. If you have questions about whether your child or a family member are in a vulnerable population, please visit the: CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/other-atriskpopulations.html>

Working together and with the grace of God, we will grow in faith and continue to live as disciples of Jesus.

In Christ,

Mrs. Kiki MJ Garcia
Director of Religious Education



GENERAL INFORMATION
Ss. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
3210 S.P.I.D
Corpus Christi, Texas 78415
Phone (361) 853-7371
www.sscmc.org

PASTOR: Rev. James Vasquez

DIRECTOR OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Mrs. Kiki MJ Garcia (361)-853-7371 or Text (361)-290-9548
kmjgarcia@sscmc.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM

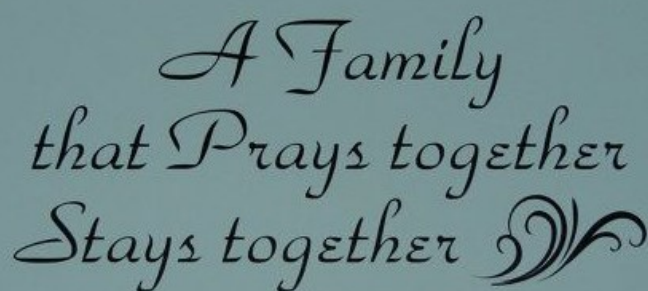
Other times available by appointment only

To report your child/ren's absence from Religious Education class please call or text (361)-290-9548

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children through their lives and examples every day. Your teaching, support, example, attitude, and the values you impart are very beneficial to your child.

1. Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, and go to Confession frequently (see website for times).
2. Discuss the Sunday readings with your children before/after attending Mass.
3. Help your child learn how to pray by praying regularly with them.
4. Fill out all required forms for Religious Education classes:
 - Parent & COVID-19 Consent:
 - Medical & Photography Consent:
 - CMSE Consent:
5. Please see that your children attend all scheduled Religious Education classes whether online or in person. *See Calendar.*
6. If your child is attending in person class, show interest in what has happened in your child's class. Sit down at home with your child to discuss.
7. Help your child/ren be conscientious about any homework given to them each week.
8. Explore the PFLAUM website at <http://www.pflaumweeklies.com/resources-for-families/> or LOYOLA PRESS website <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/liturgical-cycles/> for fun and engaging family Activities.
9. Foster an attitude of respect and cooperation within your child for Religious Education and also for the catechists and assistants who volunteer their time to share their faith.
10. Flyers and emails to parents will be sent out weekly and monthly. Please read them, as they contain important information and upcoming events.
11. Actively participate in the sacramental preparation of your child. Attendance at parents' sacramental meetings is vital.
12. **PLEASE** be sure that you, along with your child/ren, if attending in person, commit to memory the catechist's name and room assigned to your child/ren. You are encouraged to communicate with your child's catechist if you have any questions or need information.



*A Family
that Prays together
Stays together*

YEARLY CURRICULUM FOR ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

In grades 1st grade--8th grade resources provided by Pflaum Publishing and Loyola Press are used as the liturgically-based catechetical program that will help parents participate in their important role as the first educators of their children. These will be offered for both in person and distance learning families.

Supplemental books (Pflaum edition) are used for sacramental preparation in both 1st Communion and RCIA for Children.

The following are the grade level themes for both 1st and 2nd year students:

- **Grade One: God our Creator** (God is all around us)
- **Grade Two: True Food** (Reconciliation & Eucharist)
- **Grade Three: Prayer & Thanksgiving** (Spiritual Conversation with God)
- **Grade Four: The Sacraments** (Seeing our Blessings)
- **Grade Five: Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy** (Serving like Jesus)
- **Grade Six: The Good News** (Believing in the Bible)
- **Grade Seven: The Creed** (What the Church Believes & Teaches)
- **Grade Eight: Walking with God** (Being faithful to His teachings)

- **2nd year-1st Communion Students Only:**

Reconciliation & Eucharist books (Pflaum) *supplement

- **RCIA for children student ONLY:**

Reconciliation & Eucharist books (Pflaum) *supplement

The Mass (Pflaum) *supplement

Basic prayer, Scripture, Jesus, Mary and the Saints, feasts and seasons of the Church and the Mass are covered at each grade level.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM

- **Grades Ninth—Twelfth: Send out Your Spirit** (Your Journey with Christ) (Confirmation Preparation)
for both 1st and 2nd year students
- **Life Teen: Sunday night youth program** (“Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church”)

CONTACT BOBBY STREIGHT AT 361-739-5668 FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ACTIVITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RCIA)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 361-853-7371. RCIA CLASSES BEGIN IN MID-SEPTEMBER.

Policy for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation

1. Students must complete two years consecutively in the Religious Education Program (**Does not include Kindergarten**). A child must be at least in the second grade before receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation and at least in the tenth grade before receiving confirmation. This two year preparation policy is Diocesan wide. Older children also participate in a two year preparation to receive the sacraments.
2. Students must have regular attendance in religion classes and cannot be absent more than three times during the Religious Education calendar year.
3. If a child misses more than three days a makeup class will need to be attended in order for the days to be cleared. Makeup classes will be handled on individual basis.
4. It is preferred for families of students attending Religious Education classes to be registered parishioners of Ss. Cyril & Methodius. If families are not parishioners, a letter of permission from their home parish may be needed in order to prepare for a sacrament. If there is no home parish, families are welcomed to register at Ss. Cyril & Methodius.
5. When students are in their **first year** of preparation to receive the sacraments active participation and attendance is necessary as a family at mass either Saturday evening or Sunday and regular attendance of Religious Education class by student. The same applies to the **second year** of preparation with the added Sacramental meeting attendance of parents and sponsors for confirmation.
6. Students will receive their sacraments at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish once they complete their second year of preparation and the Religious Education year has ended.
7. This policy applies **ONLY** to children who have been baptized prior to age 7. Once the child is 7 years old the guidelines for RCIA for children will apply. Please ask for this information (or read page 7 of this handbook if your child has not yet been baptized and is 7 years or older).



All parents practicing their Catholic Faith are encouraged to baptize their children as an infant. Even if a child is not baptized as an infant (or before the age of reason – 7 years old), we would like to work with you to see that your child is brought into sacramental union with the Church. Please refer to the following guidelines if your child falls in this category.

Guidelines for RCIA for Children

What is RCIA for Children?

Similar to RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), RCIA for Children is a program for children between the ages of 7 and 17 who have not been baptized. RCIA for Children is open to both parishioners and non-parishioners who are in need of preparation for these Sacraments and for reception into the Roman Catholic Church and is typically held at the Easter Vigil or when it is designated by the parish priest. Whether your family is just entering the church, is returning after time away, have decided as a family to delay the children's sacramental preparation, or any other circumstance, all are welcome.

Do I need to be a member of the parish?

We ask that you be a registered and active member of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish OR of another Catholic parish. An active member is registered with a parish, attends Mass on a regular basis, supports the parish through the giving of time, talent, and treasure, and receives regular mailings and communications from the parish.

If you are a registered and active members at another parish, you must submit a "letter of permission" from the pastor which states that you are registered, active parishioners at that parish and which grants permission for attendance to Faith Formation classes at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish.

When will children receive the sacraments?

After the 1st year of preparation students who are ready, will enter into a full 2nd year of sacramental preparation in order to receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil or when it is designated by the parish priest. There is a minimum of a full year of preparation to be considered to enter the 2nd year of preparation. It is only after the 1st year and once the child is evaluated for understanding will they be considered to enter into the 2nd year of preparation for their sacrament.

- Those who have already been baptized in another religion (Candidates) enter the Catholic Church by making a Profession of Faith and receiving the sacrament(s) of Communion (Eucharist) and Confirmation only after the 1st year and if it has been found that they are ready.
- Those who have not yet been baptized (the Elect) enter the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation only after the 1st year and if it has been found that they are ready.

The sacrament of Confession (Penance, Reconciliation) is celebrated at a later date for either Candidate or the Elect after the sacraments are received.

What if my child is found not ready in the 1st year of preparation?

If a child is found not ready to enter into the 2nd year of preparation for their sacraments they are to enroll into Religious Education classes the following year, where once again they will be reviewed and evaluated for understanding and considered for sacramental preparation. Each child's ability to learn is different and is solely based on their understanding and parental involvement. In some cases it may take up to 3 years to receive the sacraments.

What materials are used?

The main resources for the RCIA for Children program is the book "Our Catholic Heritage" published by RCL Benziger. Many other resources will be used for the child during their Religious Education class including the age appropriate class book and other supplemental materials during the 2nd of preparation year.

How do I enroll my child?

Enrollment for RCIA for Children occurs simultaneously with enrollment for Religious Education.

What is required of a child, parent and sponsor in RCIA for Children?

Regular Sunday mass attendance and Religious Education classes, as well as active participation in class discussions and activities. The child will need to find and study a Saint of their choice as well as learn the Fruits & Gifts of the Holy Spirit. All children will need a sponsor who is an active member in the Catholic Church (either from Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish or another parish) who will be able to be present throughout the 1st and 2nd year of preparation and the rest of the child's life. The sponsor must be at least 16 years of age. If they are single, they must have received the sacraments of Baptism, 1st Eucharist and Confirmation. If they are married, they must have the above sacraments and be married through the Catholic Church. The sponsors must be practicing Catholics, which means that they regularly attend Mass and are able to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. There will be various activities for the parent, sponsor and child to complete together throughout the 2nd year of preparation.

Can more than one child from the same family be enrolled in RCIA for Children?

Yes! In many cases when a family is joining the church together, there is more than one child involved!! It is highly encouraged to enroll all children at the same time.

Prayer for 1st Communion Candidates 2nd - 8th grade

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen.

Glory be

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

Additional Prayers for 1st Communion Candidates 3rd – 8th grade

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the LORD your God. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

Additional Prayers & Catholic Teachings for RCIA Candidates 3rd – 8th grade

Prayer before Meals

Bless us Oh Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Meals

We give thanks for all your gifts almighty God. You live and rule forever. Amen

The Sacraments

Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony.

Corporal and Spiritual

Works of Mercy

The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. -CCC2447

The spiritual works of mercy consist of , instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. -CCC2447

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
9. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.

Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents. - CCC 2226

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR 2021-2022

LITURGICAL COLORS	LITURGICAL DEFINITIONS AND CATHOLIC TEACHING	SACRAMENTAL PREP
September 22, 2021	ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT —Devotion to Jesus present in the Eucharist	
September 29, 2021	PRAYER — There are many types and forms of prayer. Prayer helps us grow in our friendship and relationship with God. He offers grace and strength to those who pray. Prayer helps us to better understand God’s will for us.	LESSON:1 RECON
October 6, 2021	INTERCESSORY PRAYER/PETITION —Prayers offered for the needs of our community and the world around us.	LESSON:2 RECON
October 13, 2021	SAINT — An ordinary person who live an extraordinary life.	LESSON:3 RECON
October 20, 2021	VOCATION — A call from God to serve Him and others and to embrace a particular life of holiness. It is important to pray that God will guide our path.	LESSON:4 RECON
October 27, 2021	DIOCESE — The geographic area led by a Bishop.	LESSON:5 RECON
November 3, 2021	GENESIS — The first book of the Bible that contains creation stories.	LESSON:6 RECON
November 10, 2021	CREED — Summary of the essential beliefs of the Catholic faith that we pray at Sunday Mass.	
November 17, 2021	DIGNITY — Every Human being is important because we are made in God’s image and likeness.	INTRO TO WLAM
November 24, 2021	NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK	NO CLASS
December 1, 2021	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION — Mary was born without original sin. The church celebrates Mary’s freedom from original sin on December 8.	CHAPTER 1-WLAM
December 8, 2021	NO CLASS—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	NO CLASS
December 15, 2021	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE — The people of the Americas honor Mary as our patroness. Feast day is December 12.	CHAPTER 2-WLAM
December 22, 2021	NO CLASS—MERRY CHRISTMAS	NO CLASS
December 29, 2021	NO CLASS—HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022	NO CLASS
January 5, 2022	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD — The Church teaches us that Mary, Mother of God, is the perfect model of Christian faith and love.	CHAPTER 3-WLAM
January 12, 2022	CHRISTIAN MORALITY — Based on the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the Two Great Commandments. There are universal moral laws that should govern the way we act.	CHAPTER 3-WLAM
January 19, 2022	VINE AND THE BRANCHES — One of the sayings of Jesus to describe how the Church is united to and dependent upon Jesus Christ.	CHAPTER 3-WLAM
January 26, 2022	GREAT COMMANDMENTS —Love God above all and love you neighbor as yourself.	CHAPTER 4-WLAM
February 2, 2022	ROSARY —A set of prayers common in the Roman Catholic Church, said during meditation on events in the lives of Jesus and of Mary, the mother of Jesus	
February 9, 2022	SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS —Two brothers who were theologians and missionaries. They are also the parish patron saints.	LESSON:1 EUCH
February 16, 2022	PERSONAL SIN — Words, utterances, actions or desires contrary to God’s law.	LESSON: 2 EUCH
February 23, 2022	PRODIGAL SON — Jesus told this parable to teach us that God offers us forgiveness	LESSON:3 EUCH
March 2, 2022	NO CLASS—ASH WEDNESDAY	NO CLASS
March 9, 2022	ABSTINENCE — Refrain from something that is good and not sinful.	
March 16, 2022	NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS
March 23, 2022	PASCHAL MYSTERY — Jesus’ suffering, death, resurrection and ascension.	LESSON:4 EUCH
March 30, 2022	STATIONS OF THE CROSS —Prayer that helps us to reflect on Jesus Christ’s suffering and death	LESSON:5 EUCH
April 6, 2022	SACRED CHRISM — The liturgical symbol (oil that is blessed) essential to the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.	LESSON:6 EUCH
April 13, 2022	NO CLASS—HAPPY EASTER	NO CLASS
April 20, 2022	EASTER — Jesus’s resurrection; rising from death to new life; confirms all that he taught about himself and the kingdom of God.	ALL BOOKS DUE
April 27, 2022	OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR-REHEARSALS	LAST DAY OF CLASS