

Faith Formation Classes

School-aged Children (Grades K4-8)

Held at St. Sebastian Parish

Program Logistics:

Basic faith formation for children involves age-specific classes at St. Sebastian from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. on approximately two Sunday mornings each month.

Program Objectives:

- Scripture-centered catechetical education
- Growth in Catholic Church teachings of Scripture & Tradition
- Regular opportunities for prayer and service to others
- Development in relationship with God, others & Self
- Fostering healthy habits and moral development
- Retreats for grades K5-8
- Special programs for families and individuals.



Resources:

- K4/K5 uses the **Allelu!** Series, which centers upon God's gifts of creation, our relationship with Jesus, and ways we follow God.
- Grades 1-8 use the **Finding God** series from Loyola Press. This series, rooted in scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Catholic tradition, seeks to ground children in the basics of our faith and helps them and their families explore how we can live as loving, faithful followers of Christ. Each session has an "At Home" lesson, which allows the entire family to expand the experience.
- Grades 6-8 also utilizes **Catholic Connections** from St. Mary's Press. This series aims to strengthen Catholic identity and inspire students to participate more fully in the Church's mission by presenting real life scenarios.

Help Needed!

In order to keep Faith Formation running smoothly, we need help. We are looking for catechists to help teach the children of our community. If you are willing to share your time and talents, please contact Morgan Frank.

Family Faith Formation

An essential part of our formation program are the family sessions, which are intergenerational lessons focused on one topic. We have scheduled five family programs this year, building upon the liturgical calendar and core themes or teachings of the Catholic Church. Each family program involves a fun activity, sharing in community, take-home resources for continued family engagement and learning. All families are expected to participate in the family programs. We hope these sessions are scheduled in a manner that will allow families from both parishes to participate. Family resources for formation at home are always available, please contact any formation minister if you would like materials to do with your family at home! The cost of these six sessions are included in the registration fee. The dates for family formation sessions are also on the calendar attached.

NOTE: Families involved in Faith Formation will receive regular updates, with formation information and articles related to growing in faith through the email provided on your registration. Communication will also take place through the bulletin and verbal mass announcements.

Contact

Morgan Frank

Director of Child Ministry

414-453-7150 x124

mfrank@saintsebs.org

2026 – 2027 Faith Formation for K4 – Grade 8

Location: St. Sebastian (school entrance)

September

Sunday – 20

Catechetical Sunday & Catechetical Training

Tuesday– 22

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Domestic Church in Action Family Event

October

Sunday – 11

9:00 am

FF Class

Saturday – 17

10:00 am - 12:00pm K4-1st Grade Retreat

Sunday – 18

9:00 am

FF Class

November

Sunday – 1

9:00 am

FF Class

Sunday – 15

9:00 am

FF Class

December

Sunday – 6

9:00 am

FF Class

Saturday – 19

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Game Night Family Event

Sunday – 20

9:00 am

FF Class

January

Sunday – 10

9:00 am

FF Class

Saturday – 23

10:00 am - 12:00pm 3rd-5th Grade Retreat

February

Sunday– 7

9:00 am

FF Class

Wednesday– 10

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Mercy & Families Family Event

Sunday – 21

9:00 am

FF Class

March

Sunday – 7

9:00 am

FF Class

Sunday– 21

11:30 am - 1:00 pm Holy Week Family Event

April

Sunday – 4

9:00 am

FF Class

Sunday – 18

9:00 am

Last FF Class

Saturday– 24

9:00 am - 1:00 pm 6th-8th Grade Retreat

May

Tuesday– 4

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm 12 Disciples Family Event

Revised 8/2/26

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – Ages 3-9

Held at St. Catherine Parish

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based approach to the religious formation of children, rooted in Sacred Scripture, liturgy, and respect for the child's rich relationship with God. The word “catechesis” is often defined as oral instruction given to catechumens (those preparing for baptism). It is from a Greek word, related to the word “to teach,” and means “resounding” or “echoing down.” It refers to the passing on of the truths of our faith.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD
SHEPHERD

Central to CGS is the Atrium, a room containing beautiful materials that focus the child's attention on key scripture passages or liturgical moments. Children are encouraged to move about, touch materials, discover and develop a relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd. St. Catherine has two dedicated Atriums located within St. Catherine School.

During each session, there will be an introduction by the catechist, then children are invited to work with a material on their own to continue their meditation. Because children learn by using their hands, working with materials allows them to enter more deeply into meditation, nurturing their relationship with God.

At St. Catherine we offer two levels of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:

- Level I (ages 3-6) Sunday Mornings from 8:45-10 a.m.
- Level II (ages 6-9) Monday evenings from 5:45-7:30 p.m.

All age levels focus on the life of Christ, the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, and on a range of parables. For the youngest learners in Level One, the heart of the Catechesis is the parable of the Good Shepherd, who knows his sheep by name and keeps them safe. For the 6-9 year old child in Level Two, the focus is on the moral parables and the image of the True Vine: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing."

Family Faith Formation

An essential part of our Family and Youth Formation are the Family Programs, which are intergenerational lessons focused on one topic. We schedule five of these Family Programs each year, usually building upon a core theme or teaching of the Church. Each Family Program involves a fun activity, sharing in community, and take-home lessons, resources, or material for continued learning. All families are expected to participate in the Family Programs. Families also receive monthly up-dates, faith formation information, and articles related to growing in faith.

Contact

Bernadette Davel (CGS coordinator)

Coordinator of Catechesis of Good Shepherd

bernadettedavel@sbcglobal.net

Marie Fessenbecker (level I catechist)

marie.fessenbecker@gmail.com

Pam Schein (level II catechist)

jschein1@wi.ri.com

2025 – 2026 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Location: St. Catherine

Level 1

8:45-10:10am

September 22
September 27

October 4
October 11

October 17
October 18
October 25

November 1
November 8
November 15
November 22

December 6
December 13
December 19
December 20

January 3
January 10
January 17
January 23
January 24

February 7
February 10
February 21
February 28

March 7
March 14
March 21

April 4
April 11
April 18
April 24
April 25

May 2
May 4
May 9
May 16

Level 2&3

5:45-7:30pm

Domestic Church in Action Family Event

October 5
October 12

K4-1st Grade Retreat

October 19

November 2
November 9
November 16
November 23

December 7
December 14

Game Night Family Event

January 4
January 11
January 18
January 25

3rd-5th Grade Retreat

February 8
February 22

Mercy & Families Family Event

March 1
March 8
March 15
March 22

Holy Week Family Event

April 5
April 12
April 19
April 26

6th-8th Grade Retreat

May 3
May 10
May 17

12 Disciples Family Event

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

10:00 am - 12:00pm

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

10:00 am - 12:00pm

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm