

St. Paul Catholic Newman Center

Forming disciples, Spreading the Gospel



Religious Education Program Guide 2016-2017

Director of Religious Education
Bridget McIntyre

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From Fr. John Meany O.P.

Jesus said, “Go, therefore,* and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.* Mt 28:19

Dear Parents,

We have it from none other than Jesus himself to “make disciples …, to baptize …, and to teach … all that I have commanded you.” Here at St. Paul Catholic Center, we take this command of the Lord very seriously.

Ultimately it is the responsibility of parents and godparents to form their children in the faith but the parish also has an important role to play.

This program guide is for parents to help them understand the wide variety of religious education programs for children and high school youth offered at the St. Paul Center. It is not intended to be an exhaustive description of each programs, the goals and objectives, but instead a synopsis of the curriculum, the age level, meeting times, program costs and the contact information.

I hope you find this guide helpful as you carry out your responsibly to form your children in the Catholic faith.

May God bless you and your children as you carry out all that the Lord commanded.

With fond best wishes,

Fr. John

From the Director of Religious Education

Dear Families,

It is an honor and joy that you have chosen St. Paul Catholic Center as your faith home. Myself, and our faith formation volunteers will do our best to create a meaningful learning experience for your children and youth that will encourage their growth towards God.

Families have a significant role in the parish life at St. Paul. Your intentionality to raise your children and youth in the Catholic faith is a witness to the whole community. All children, youth, and families are on a unique spiritual journey and our faith formation team will do its best to meet your needs. Whether you are preparing your child for Baptism or Confirmation, seeking more engagement into social justice issues, or desiring a deeper connection to the liturgy; please know that we value your needs and hope to support you along your journey as best as we can.

In the following pages, opportunities for your children and youth are outlined by education program. In addition to our religious education programs, St. Paul offers fellowship and volunteer experiences for the family that will provide a comprehensive spiritual formation. Please contact me if you desire more or different experiences for your family. In the meantime, I look forward to building a relationship with your family and joining you on your spiritual journey at St. Paul Catholic Center.

Many Blessings,

Bridget McIntyre

Programs that we offer at St. Paul Catholic Center:

Pre-K to Middle School Programs

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

Weekly during 10:30 a.m. Mass

Faith Formation Catechesis (FFC)

Weekly Sessions:

Sunday mornings from 9-10:15 a.m.

Families Growing in Faith (FGF)

Monthly Sessions with the whole family:

One Friday evening a month from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for 8 sessions.

Middle School to High School Programs

Middle School Youth Group

High School Youth Group

Sacramental Programs

Sacramental Preparation
for First Reconciliation / First Eucharist

Programa de Primera Communion

Korean Faith Formation

Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation

Programs for Elementary Students

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

Every Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass
Children ages 3 years old to 7 years old

There is no registration for this program and it can be used by anyone attending the 10:30 am Mass.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered during the 10:30 a.m. Mass on any Sunday that IU is in session. Any child ages 3 years old to 7 years old may follow the leaders out of Mass and hear the readings of the day, have a small discussion with the children about how they would live out Jesus' message of the day and have interactive activities on the Word.

Then they come back to Mass at the offertory prayer. No one is gone during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, but it gives the adults an opportunity to focus more on the homily and the prayers for the community.

We always welcome parents to escort any children who may wish to attend but are hesitant. If you feel you'd like to volunteer to be a leader we train new leaders at any time of the year.

Religious Education for children 4 years old to 8th Grade

St. Paul offers two opportunities for religious education for your children. These are:

1. Weekly Sessions: *Faith Formation Catechesis* on Sunday mornings from 9:30 -10:25 a.m,
2. Monthly Sessions with the whole family; *Families Growing in Faith* one Friday evening a month from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for 8 sessions.

Here is an explanation of each of these programs:

Faith Formation Catechesis (FFC)

Weekly Sessions

In the weekly sessions in a classroom environment, we see a spiral approach to learning. The children may visit the same subject each year, but with a more nuanced understanding as they grow in ability and develop in their thinking process. This is why it is beneficial for your children to have

uninterrupted religious education, they will develop a more mature faith when they have the tools to do so.

The majority of classes are taught by IU students but parents are always welcome to help out as well. The curriculum comes from RCL Benzinger and is approved by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for use in the parish. This is in conformity with the scope and sequence put forth by the Office of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. A grade focus curriculum guideline may be found here: <http://oce.archindy.org/faith-formation/curriculum-guidelines.aspx>

Weekly Sunday Sessions When IU is in Session:

Classes are split into four classrooms.

- **Pre-school and Kindergarten**
- **1st and 2nd Grade**
- **3rd and 4th Grade**
- **5th and 8th Grade**

Families Growing in Faith (FGF)

Monthly Sessions *with the whole family!*

One Friday evening a month from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for 8 sessions, starting with a group dinner.

We are our children's first teachers, and their most influential. With this in mind, "Families Growing in Faith," or "FGF," offers a parent-led faith formation program for families with children in grades 1-8.

The FGF program is a way of involving families in their children's faith formation. John Roberto, founder of the Center for Ministry Development, developed the concept, to help families of all generations deepen their knowledge of the Catholic faith together, which in turn builds a stronger church community. Along with the other faith formation programs at St. Paul, we follow the curriculum standards set forth by the Archdiocese.

Our program is designed around a three-year rotation: **the Catholic Church calendar, the Sacraments, and Peace and Justice.** While the themes do cycle, children will absorb different information at different ages. The lessons are developed for children in grades 1-5 with material presented in a variety of ways including art, plays, and hands-on activities. During the eight sessions this year, students in grades 6-8 will meet as an independent group. Our program also includes a home-schooling approach. We will make available workbooks for at-home work during the weeks between meetings. The materials will provide families opportunities to deepen their faith growth in their daily lives, which is the goal of this program.

FGF is a cooperative program because it is parent-led. Each month a small group of parents will plan and run a session. Working with other parents is a great way to get to know other parishioners, and the children see your commitment to your faith and their faith formation.

Middle School & High School Youth Ministry

Middle School Socials

This group will meet roughly once a couple of months. These events will be focused on large group activities that will create an inviting environment for our middle school students and will focus on their needs. Middle school students have a unique set of experiences and they deserve a unique set of events.

High School Youth Ministry

Our High School Youth Ministry welcomes all high school students! Students are more than welcome to bring visiting family and friends! All are welcome.

We have a variety of groups for our high school youth! Here is a quick overview of all the ways we engage our young Catholic leaders:

Sunday Night Life (SNL)

On scheduled Sunday nights, teens can gather downstairs for Sunday Night Life from 6:30-8:00 pm (after the 5:30p.m. Mass) to socialize and evangelize! Our focus is to gather and discuss topics relevant to their lives in a relaxed setting. Avoiding the classroom set-up, we allow teens to share and have fun with their peers while deepening their faith. As always, snacks will be present with the help of a few donations along the way!

HS Bible Study

The Word is alive and our high school students long to hear it, reflect on it and live it! This group meets every Thursday from 7-8 p.m. at St. Paul to bring the Word to their lives in a safe and welcoming environment! Forgot your Bible? No worries- we can provide you with one.

HS Choir

We have such amazing, talented students here and we love to show them off with our HS Choir. We sing at select 5:30 pm Masses and rehearse an hour before. Instrumentalists are always welcome, but let us know in advance to ensure we have the correct music. Contact Bridget McIntyre or our music director Maria Hagan (mseuffert@hoosiercatholic.org) if you are interested!

Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation / First Communion

Six sessions for one year for eligible students

All baptized children over 7 years old are eligible to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist.

In order to enroll in the program at St. Paul Catholic Center they must have attended religious education the previous year. If they were not enrolled at St. Paul the previous year a letter from your former Director of Religious Education is needed prior to signing them up for preparation. They must currently be enrolled and attend one of our programs, either the weekly sessions or Families Growing in Faith.

It is very important that you not miss sessions for this preparation. Please contact Bridget McIntyre if you there is a family emergency that keeps your child from a session and a special arrangement will be made.

Programa de Primera Communion

La educación religiosa para la Comunidad Hispana incluye dos clases para la Primera Comunion. Los niños de 8 a 14 anos tienen clases de catecismo comenzando en el mes de Septiembre y finalizando en el mes de Mayo cuando se realiza la Primera Comunion. Una clase para los niños de 8 a 11 anos y otra clase para niños de 12 a 14 anos por separados. Se usan dos libros para la preparación de los niños. Para el grupo de niños mas pequenos se usan Reconciliacion y Eucaristia, para los niños de 12 a 14 anos se usa el libro Llamados a ser Catolicos. Se hacen muchas actividades para ayudarlos a aprender los tópicos que se han discutido. Los niños también son incentivados para aprender y memorizar las oraciones.

Korean Faith Formation

Faith Formation (예비자 교리) 1st & 3rd Saturday, 4:00-6:00PM.

Saturday School (어린이 주일학교) 1st & 3rd Saturday, 5:00-6:00PM.

Bible study for married women (성경 공부) every Friday 10:30AM-12:30PM.

Bible study for students (대학생 이상 학생들 성경공부) will be announced.

If you have any question about Korean religious education emails Kyungai Helena Cheun at helenagaster@gmail.com.

Confirmation

Monthly sessions for two years for high school students

Confirmation Class

Classes are held Sunday evenings once a month from 4:00 pm- 5:15 pm. Classes will be held downstairs in the St. Paul Catholic Center in the Stephens Room. We are very excited to involve our Indiana University students as group leaders. With the great response we've had for our call for volunteers, our confirmation program will be full of strong, young Catholic leaders inspiring the next generation.

Two Year Curriculum

Our Confirmation Course will take two years to complete. Typically beginning with the freshmen year of high school, students will meet monthly for two years and cover a variety of topics and retreats. Below is a list of curriculum topics covered in each year cycle:

Year A (2015-2016)

Life is Choices
What's holding you back?
The Jesus Question
The Prayer Process
The Bible
Relationships

Year B (2016-2017)

The Eucharist
The Holy Spirit
The Church
Confirmation
Made for Mission
Holiness is Possible

Retreats

Every year, we have a retreat for each year level of student. First year students will have a retreat in the fall as part of fellowship and centering the start of this journey. Second year students will have a retreat in the spring to wrap up their two years together and celebrate their hard work before their Confirmation.

Service Projects

Service is an essential part of our Catholic faith for all ages. A variety of volunteer opportunities will be provided for youth to choose meaningful volunteer experiences

All Program Details

Schedule

Since we are the Newman Center for Indiana University, our educational schedule is aligned with the IU calendar. The beginning and end of the year along with extended breaks are in alignment with the IU calendar.

Fees

Children's Liturgy of the Word- FREE!

FFC- One Child: \$45.00 and \$20.00 for each additional child

FGF- One Child: \$45.00 and \$20.00 for each additional child

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be an additional \$20.00 fee for each child participating in the sacraments program.

Confirmation- \$60 per student

Confirmation Retreats- \$25-75 per student. Specific retreats will have adjusted prices. Retreats take place at designed centers, so fees contribute to center fees, food, lodging supplies.

Youth Ministry- Weekly sessions are free! Food donations are greatly appreciated. All special events will require an entrance fee, depending on the costs of the activity. Fees due at the beginning of the event.

All Fees are Due By October 30th

All money collected through the Religious Education registration fees is put back into the Religious Education Program. These fees help offset the parish's cost for the programs. Money brought in is used to pay for textbooks, teacher materials and training, and other resources.

All fees may be collected at the parish office, paid online or at the kiosk in the gathering space.

Mass Policy

A good religious education program can only build upon the moral, spiritual, and religious formation that the children are receiving at home by you, their parent. This may seem a huge responsibility.

One of the simplest ways to teach children the importance of God in their lives is to bring them with you to Mass every weekend. As Catholics, celebrating Mass and the Eucharist are central to our faith.

Please make every effort to attend a weekend Mass with your children. It will set up an imbalance in your child's understanding of what their faith means when we teach them the importance in attending Mass but it is not reflected in their family life.

Weather Closings

In case of bad weather, we will follow the MCCSC decision. If the children are out of school due to weather, we will not meet that evening. If it is a weekend, please check the parish website at www.hoosiercatholic.org or on WTIU. We will post all changes as quickly as possible.

Plan on all FGF sessions to take place each month, if there is a very severe snow which will effect Friday sessions we will also follow MCCSC. If the school is out we will probably not meet. You will be contacted by e-mail if this occurs.

For Your Safety

Drop Off and Pick-Up Policy for Preschool through Grade 8

WE ARE REQUIRING A PARENT OR GUARDIAN (NOT AN OLDER BROTHER OR SISTER) TO DROP OFF AND PICK UP THE CHILD AT THE DOOR OF THEIR ROOM.

We have many reasons for this, the most important being the safety of the children. The parking lot is not a safe place for little ones to be trying to find mom or dad's car. Also this will safeguard children from being picked up by someone you do not know or do not want picking up your child. This policy will ensure that your child actually reaches their room. It will also give you a chance to meet the catechists who will be teaching your children, the other children in their grade, and the other parents.

Your child will be kept in their room until you pick them up after the session ends. **Please be aware that many of our Sunday Catechists would like to attend 10:30 a.m. Mass but need to stay until all the children are picked up. Occasionally there is an emergency that precludes you from being there at 10:25, however they will not leave until your child is safely in your custody and this may inhibit them from getting to Mass on time.**

For all students in all grades:

If there is someone you absolutely do not want picking your child up, we should be made aware of this (because of a restraining order, for instance.) Please contact a member of the Religious Education Staff right away. It would be prudent to inform the catechists of the situation, and perhaps provide us with a picture of the person, if the situation warrants. We want to cooperate in helping keep your children safe.

Child Abuse Policy

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis requires all persons who work with anyone under the age of 18 in the parish to complete the "Safe and Sacred" program with a background check located on the Archdiocese of Indianapolis' website: www.archindy.org . At the end of the online program, they will complete a background check and the results are sent to the parish office to be cleared to work with our children.

We are required by law to report any concerns we may have about children we suspect of being abused. All concerns are brought to the Religious Education Staff and the pastor who will deal with the reports accordingly.

Open Door Policy

This year we will again operate an Open Door Policy to all rooms. Parents who wish to sit in on their child's group are always welcomed! Please contact a member of the Religious Education Staff. The parent's role will be limited to that of an observer, although you are welcome to discuss your visit with the staff or catechist in an arranged appointment.

Attendance and Classroom Management Policies

Attendance Policy

The attendance policy is intended to keep the catechist (teacher), parents, and students informed on materials missed due to unexpected absences.

It is very important that every absence be EXCUSED. If you know in advance that your child will be absent the following week, please inform your child's teacher. The teacher will then be able to give the material for that session to your child so that he/she will have the opportunity to keep up with their group upon returning the following week. The catechist may opt to give the material to your child upon his/her return.

If your child is absent two weeks in a row, a call will be made to make sure everything is all right. If there is some circumstance that will keep him/her out for an extended length of time, materials will be distributed so they will have a sense of what is being learned.

FGF Attendance Policy

Since there are only 8 sessions for this program, the expectation is that only a family emergency will keep you from participating. Please mark down the dates for the sessions in advance. This is similar to a home-school program and materials provided should be used at home to continue the sessions from the previous month. Please make every effort to ensure that children and parents do not miss a session due to rehearsal, practices, parties or other events that are important but could be re-scheduled.

If you find you will miss two or three sessions in a year perhaps you would like to utilize both a weekly program and the FGF sessions. With only five or six sessions it would be very demanding on the families to meet the minimum thirty hours of religious education the Archdiocese expects all children to receive each calendar.

All children must be accompanied by at least one of their parents or responsible guardian at all FGF sessions.

Classroom Management

The best learning takes place in an orderly, respectful, and safe environment. Catechists are given directions to contact staff when children are becoming a constant discipline problem. We hope that together, parents and staff can sit down and come up with a solution.

If a discipline problem starts to develop, we will invite you to come to the room a time or two with your child. This usually takes care of the problem. As a final alternative, in order to ensure an effective teaching environment unresolved discipline problems on the part of uncooperative students might be grounds for dismissal from the program. This is a last resort and one we work hard to avoid. All students have the right to embrace their faith and to learn more about the Catholic Church.

Misc.

Please make sure that you list if there are any special needs that staff members should be made aware of. It is important that we meet your child's needs and avoid any potential allergy triggers.

Interested in Volunteering?

Volunteers are an essential part of our ministry. We depend on our volunteers and all their hard work to facilitate our programs. Their unique gifts bring fresh perspectives to this ministry.

You are more than welcome to volunteer your time to help out in any session if you would like to become more involved. The more the children see the adults show an interest in what they are doing, the more value they will place on their religious education.

There will be additional workshops and trainings offered to all religious education volunteers, focusing on curricular goals and classroom management skills. This is a great opportunity for everyone to learn, especially those who are unsure how their gifts and skills can play into their ministry.

If you are interested in volunteering at any point of time in the year, feel free to contact Bridget McIntyre

Contact Information

Please do not hesitate to contact either Bridget McIntyre (FFC, FGF, and First Communion/ First Reconciliation, and Programa de Primera Communion programs) at: bmcintyre@hoosiercatholic.org or by phone: (812) 339-5561 ext 222.

Thank you!

You have made Catholic Education a key role your family's busy schedules and it is a priority that will carry over into every aspect of your lives. Thank you for your commitment and your support.

If you have any questions or concerns about the content of this Religious Education Program Guide, please contact Bridget McIntyre. We will always make time for any parent who is concerned about their child's faith formation.

Again, we want to thank you for enrolling your child(ren) in St. Paul's Religious Education Program. Please let us know how we are doing and how you would like to be a part of this important ministry to the children of our parish.

A Prayer for Family Commitment

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.

Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.

Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the Sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—spouses, parents, and children—share, as members of his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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