



## St. Charles Religious Education Classes

### Sacramental Preparation I

For first and second grade students who are just beginning their two-year period of sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist. Students are introduced to the Triune God, the life of Jesus, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the life of prayer.

### Sacramental Preparation II

For students who have completed the first year of sacramental preparation. The sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist is covered more in depth, and the love God shows for us through these two sacraments is emphasized. They learn how to go through the steps of examination of conscience and confession, learn the order of the mass, and continue to learn the basics of prayer.

### Third/Fourth Grade

In the first year, students learn more about the saving plan of salvation, from the incarnation to the birth of the Church at Pentecost. There is special emphasis on Confession, Communion, and the Mass. The children learn that their family is an important part of God's family, the Church.

In the second year, salvation history is examined in greater detail in the Old Testament. The Fall brought forth sin and suffering of mankind. God chooses his leaders and his people. History changes when Jesus the King comes. Through grace, especially through the sacraments, we receive the strength to do good.

### Fifth/Sixth Grade

The first year is a thorough overview of the articles of the Creed as the basic belief of our Catholic faith. There will be special emphasis on the definitions through the words of the Gospels, the prophets, and the prayers of the Church. Students will have a greater understanding of the Creed they profess each Sunday and can use this knowledge to distinguish truths of our faith from errors that lead away from the love of God.

The second year draws up the blueprint for a life of love. There will be a careful examination of the Ten Commandments, the Holy Mass (emphasizing the Real Presence

and explaining the parts of the Mass), and the Last Things (with an emphasis on the great happiness of Heaven). The students will have a greater understanding and love of the moral law, the mass as our best prayer to God, and adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

### Seventh/ Eighth Grade

The first year is all about Grace, our link with God. He brings us to himself and his eternal life, and there is an emphasis of the transmission of grace to us through the sacraments. Students begin to understand how grace works and its role in developing the virtues.

Second year students will learn the history of the Church – its founding by Christ, its birth in the Holy Spirit, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church and its magisterium. We know and love the Church as Christ's Body, and respond to the teaching of the magisterium as the sure voice of Jesus. This consistency of teaching is a firm anchor as the teens face the trials and challenges of life in today's culture.

### Confirmation Preparation

This is for ninth grade students who have received Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist. It is a one-year preparation process using the Chosen program by Ascension Press. It is a solid program that brings the teens a greater understand of the Church and sacraments as a never-ending source of strength and courage. Short video segments interspersed with small group discussion add depth to the understanding of what is being presented. Teens should be researching potential confirmation saints over the summer and have one chosen by the first few weeks of class. Confirmation will be in the spring of their ninth-grade year.

### RCIC

This is an abbreviation for "The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults adapted for children". Children who have not been baptized by age 7 must be initiated into the Church fully at the Easter Vigil. Full initiation means receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the same Mass. This group will follow closely the teachings of Sacramental Preparation II with additional catechesis about Confirmation. They will go through the same rites the adults do during their journey to become a member of the Catholic faith. We will use the Faith and Life series plus additional materials when necessary.