

**PARENTS,
it's that time of year...
REGISTER FOR CCD and
SACRAMENT PREPARATION**



The church recognizes your role and responsibility as parents to be the primary educators for your children. Being a parent in today's world is an awesome challenge; as a church, we want to help you meet that challenge in a way that appeals to today's youth and their families. We believe that people aren't baptized to participate in programs; we believe we become Catholic by practicing *being* Catholic.

Grades Kindergarten - Grade 8

Our students who attend public school, a private non-Catholic school, or are homeschooled attend our CCD faith formation classes which will be held virtually this year to provide a safe learning environment for our students. Once registered you will be issued a log-in to the Ignatius Press Faith and Life series online platform. We will work with the CCD students through this media platform to assist the learning and development of their spiritual lives.

Each Sunday will be designated for a grouping of grades from 9:30a.m. – 10:30a.m. to give the students and parents in-person time as a check-in. During this time masks will be required, and social distancing protocols will be followed.

Any student in these grades is welcome to participate, even if the student attends Catholic School elsewhere.

Why attend?

CCD can be valuable in helping you fulfill the commitment that you made at your child's baptism of "training them in the practice of the faith." CCD is not a replacement of Mass for children of school age; rather, it is a supplement to the religious education received at home.

TO REGISTER:

To register for **Kindergarten- Grade 8**, please complete the attached forms. You may register all the children in your family who are grades kindergarten through 8th using this one form. **Your registration and payment in full are due before September 30th. Completed forms can be mailed to or dropped off at the Parish Office, or dropped in the offertory basket at Mass.** You will receive an email confirmation, including a login for the online course. **YOU MUST SEND US A CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS!**

Concerns about tuition? Please call Faith Formation Director Rob Rodgers at 740-453-3301 Ext. 125 to inquire about assistance; all conversations are confidential.

(MORE ON REVERSE)

**A SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN
1st, 2nd, 7th, & 8th GRADES
CONCERNING SACRAMENT PREPARATION**

At Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, children typically receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time in 2nd grade, and the Sacrament of Confirmation in 8th grade. Please note that we strive to adhere to the following guidelines for sacramental preparation (unless there are extenuating circumstances) to ensure that our children benefit from well-rounded religious instruction.

Any child who wishes to receive one of the sacraments for the first time should have completed at minimum one full year of formal religious instruction prior to the formal instruction the child would receive in order to partake of the sacrament. For example, a child wishing to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion in 2nd grade should have completed a full year of 1st grade religious instruction; likewise, a child wishing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in 8th grade should have completed a full year of 7th grade religious instruction .

Formal religious instruction may be through Bishop Fenwick or another Catholic school, an approved home school curriculum*, or enrollment in our CCD faith formation program. With CCD, participation would occur during the 1st grade or 7th grade years via Sunday morning sessions and student should attend at least half of the year's sessions.

Further, during the year of sacramental preparation (2nd or 8th grades), the child must be enrolled in either Bishop Fenwick or another Catholic school or the CCD faith formation program in order to experience community and ensure consistent catechesis. With CCD, participation would occur during the 2nd grade or 8th grade years via monthly Sunday morning sessions and student should attend all in-person sessions. Also during the sacramental preparation year (2nd and 8th grades), the child must be registered and participate in our Sacramental Preparation Programs which may include additional sessions outside of Sunday mornings such as retreats, rehearsals, etc.

There is a separate, additional fee for sacramental preparation to help defray the costs of materials, supplies, receptions, retreats, etc. No one will be refused sacramental preparation due to financial difficulties.

Registration for sacrament preparation is a separate enrollment process from CCD. If you have a 2nd grade and/or 8th grade student, please also complete the attached sacrament preparation registration forms.

If you do not have a student in 2nd or 8th grade this academic year, you need only complete the CCD registration forms; you do not need to complete the sacrament preparation registration forms.

QUESTIONS? CALL ROB RODGERS AT 740-453-3301 EXT. 125

*A homeschool option must be discussed with the Religious Education Department no later than July of the upcoming 1st or 7th grade school year; curriculum must include resources on the diocesan approved list and follow the diocesan graded course of study.