



Church
of the
**Most
Blessed
Sacrament**
Atlanta, Georgia

Jesus says:
*Those who
eat my flesh and
drink my blood
abide in me,
and I in them.*
John 6:56

Parish School of Religion and Faith Formation Handbook

Elementary Catechesis & Ministry Program (K-5 Grades)

Middle School Youth Ministry & Catechesis Program (6-8 Grades)

High School Youth Ministry & Catechesis Program

**Guidelines for Receiving Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation &
First Holy Communion**



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Table of Contents

Welcome Letter from the Pastor and PSR Staff	Page 3
Program's Purpose and Registration Policy	Page 4
Tuition, Class Structure, and General Curriculum Guide	Page 5
Policy on Student Evaluations	Page 6
Class Times and Policy on Student Discipline	Page 7
Communications Between Parents and PSR Program	Page 8
Adult Volunteer Opportunities with PSR	Page 9
Receiving of the Sacraments at our Parish	Page 10
Requirements for First Holy Communion	Page 11
Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry	Page 12
From the Catholic Bishops in the U.S.	
Youth Ministry Goals & Objectives	Page 14
Middle School Ministry and Catechesis Program	Page 15
High School Ministry and Catechesis Program	Page 16
Sacrament of Confirmation and Requirements	Page 17
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children	Page 18



Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church From The Pastor & Parish Staff

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Most Blessed Sacrament's Parish School of Religion and Faith Formation Program. We look forward to working with you and your children this year. This handbook covers most everything you need to know about our parish's catechetical and spiritual formation program. Please look over it carefully and note all aspects that pertain specifically to you and your child.

The parish catechists and the parish staff have planned a wonderful program, but we are only part of the spiritual formation process. In other words, **THIS PROCESS DOES NOT WORK WITHOUT YOU**. In order to help your child to grow in his or her Catholic faith, parents must be a part of our team. Please review the lessons every week and make sure that your child is prepared for class. **AND please, show good example by praying with your children, attending Mass, and participating in the other sacraments with them.** We hope to expose the children to a variety of Catholic traditions during the course of the year, but the exposure means so much more if these traditions are important to you and your family. You are invited to all of our special functions and we encourage your participation.

While you are most interested at this point in religious instruction for your young children, we would like you to know that the Parish School of Religion is a broad range of opportunities for education and spiritual formation here in our parish. There are also a multi-faceted experience for adults: a series of spiritual discussions opportunities and scripture study for adults, and the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) program for those who are curious about the Catholic Faith or who feel that the Holy Spirit may be encouraging them to join the Church.

We're very glad that you are here; you as a parent are the most important part of our team, and we welcome your comments and your suggests. Please feel free to contact us with any concerns you might have.

Fr. Bruce W. Wilkinson

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By **grace**
you have
been saved
through
Faith . . .

It is 
**the gift
of God.**
Ephesians 2:8

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* places the family at the center of catechetical ministry

“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...”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2226

PURPOSE

The goal of the Most Blessed Sacrament School of Religion and Faith Formation Program (PSR) is to lead our children, teens, adults and families to Christ through the fullness of our Catholic faith tradition.

Registration in the parish is a requirement of PSR. If your family is not registered as members at Most Blessed Sacrament, please contact the office at 404-349-0176 x10.

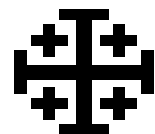
REGISTRATION

PSR registration is held between June 1 through August 31. Early registration ensures the proper allocation of resources so that the parish has the ability to run an effective PSR program. Tuition should accompany the registration form. Any registrations received after August will be charged a late fee of \$20.00 per child (*New parishioners who have registered with the Parish after the August 31st deadline will not be charged the late fee*).

NOTE: PSR Registration Form and Remittance Envelope are included with this booklet. Place the Remittance Envelope in the collection basket during Mass, bring it to the church office, or mail it back to the parish.

“The first and last point of reference of this catechesis will always be Jesus Christ himself, who is ‘the way, and the truth, and the life.’”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1697



TUITION

The tuition fee helps defray the cost of each student's textbooks, supplies, events, facility costs, and salaries of paid staff. It does not cover all costs associated with the parish program.

PLEASE NOTE: A financial concern should not prevent a child's registration in our program. If there is a difficulty, PLEASE contact the pastor at the church office.

The children of FULL Time Catechists and Full TIME Aides will be granted free tuition.

PSR PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Our parish's PSR Program serves families registered at Most Blessed Sacrament who have children four & five years old (PRE-K), Elementary age (K through 5 Grade), Middle School (Grades 6-8), and High School (Grades 9-12). In addition to weekly classes PSR Program families are expected to participate in the parish's **SUNDAY CELEBRATION OF OUR PARISH YOUTH** (2 times a year) and **PRAYER SERVICE SUNDAYS** (*Youth Rosary Rally, National Day of Prayer for Families, Lenten Stations of the Cross, and the May Crowning of Mary*). Also our PSR program requires monthly participation in **SERVICE FOR CHRIST SATURDAYS** (6 times a year) - teaching our youth that to be a Christian mean to also give back to the parish and larger community.

STUDENT CURRICULUM & TEXT BOOKS

The PSR Curriculum for **Grades K-5** is the Sadlier We Believe program. A Summary of the curriculum for **Grades K-5** can be found as a part of this Handbook materials. **Grades 6-8** catechesis uses the Sadlier Faith and Witness for middle school programs. The **High School Ministry** uses St. Mary's Press Total Faith Initiative Series for high school. In addition to the PSR classes, our parish hosts **The Children's Liturgy of the Word** during the Sunday Masses (Pre-K through Grade 5).

HOME STUDY FOR FAMILIES

Home study is available for families with children grades K through 8 with special circumstances. Please contact Fr. Bruce Wilkinson, Director of Faith Formation for more information. Parents must attend Basic Catechist Training prior to home schooling their child. Students are also required to attend all Service for Christ events, Prayer experiences, Penance Services, and special events as indicated at the beginning of the school year. **Students must pass end of the year assessment in order to receive class credit.**

STUDENT EVALUATIONS

Elementary and Middle School students will be evaluated four times a year, twice before the end of December, and twice again before the end of the program in May. The PSR Coordinators and the catechists will make evaluations in the following areas:

Attendance at Class — PSR classes meet for 30 hours every school year. Each unexcused absence, tardy arrival or late pickup will be recorded as a missed class. If a student misses 6 or more classes (or tardiness / late pickups), a parent meeting will be arranged with the Director of Religious Education to discuss your child's preparation.

Attendance at Sunday Mass — Regular attendance at the Sunday Mass is expected. Participation in worship at the parish is an important part of a Christian's faith formation and development. Excessive absences from Sunday Mass participation adversely effect a child's ability to connect what is being taught and how to incorporate it into practice.

Comprehension — is measured via evaluations provided by the curriculum's publisher. Evaluations may take the form of homework, take-home tests, open book tests, in-class quizzes, private recitation of prayers, etc. Your child's Catechists will send home an outline of the methods to be used in class during the first few weeks of the PSR session.

Participation — is measured by the Catechist and is an indication of how frequently and willingly a child participated in class. Student participation includes, but is not limited to, the following: answering questions when called upon, proactively raising their hands, contributing to small group discussions, turning in assignments, returning take-home folders, helping the catechist with classroom tasks, etc.

Behavior — is measured by the Catechist and is an indication of a student's behavior compared to their classroom peers. We expect our students to be respectful, attentive and able to follow classroom rules.

Assessments will be made on a three-point scale:

- Exceeds Expectations
- Meets Expectations
- Needs Improvement

Evaluations allow the parent, the child, and the catechist to see how a child is performing, and provide opportunities for measuring progress over a period of time.

PSR CALENDAR & CLASS TIME — ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Parish School of Religion classes for Elementary Children (K - 5), Middle School Youth (6 - 8), and High School Youth are held from August through May. Class times and vacation days are listed on the School of Religion calendars. When class begins, attendance is taken.

Tardy arrivals will be tracked, and will affect your child's "Attendance Grade." Arriving in class late interferes with your child's progress and is disruptive to the catechist and the entire class.

Children in classes Kindergarten, and 1st Grade must be picked up in the classroom by a PARENT. Catechists of these grades will not let children leave until a parent arrives. No child may leave the building alone during the PSR class period. A PARENT must come to the classroom to pick up the child. This is for your child's protection.

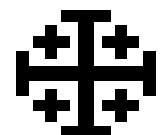
DISCIPLINE POLICY

According to the document on education from Vatican II, the parents are the primary religious educators of their children. It is Most Blessed Sacrament Parish's function to help the parents in their work to educate their child.

Our catechists offer their Christian stewardship of time and talent to work with your children within this ministry of religious catechesis. We cannot allow the behavior of one to interfere with the learning of other students. Our policy, therefore is as follows:

- If a catechist finds it impossible to meet the needs of the entire group due to the disruptive behavior that disruptive child will be removed from the classroom. The Coordinator will speak to the child about how to correct their behavior;
- If the problem persists, the catechist and/or the PSR coordinator will then contact the parents regarding the child's behavior;
- If the problem still persists, the Director of Religious Education will meet with both the parents and the student. The child will only be readmitted if accompanied by the parents to the following class for discussion with the catechist;
- If the child is unable to function in the community of the classroom, the parents will be given appropriate materials for his or her religious education in their home.

"The first and last point of reference of this catechesis will always be Jesus Christ himself, who is 'the way, and the truth, and the life.'"
Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1697



COMMUNICATIONS

The most common methods of communication between the Parish Religious Education Department and parents include:

- The weekly Parish Bulletin (parish's primary form of communication);
- E-mail;
- Parish Web Site (www.mbschurch.com);
- Student Folders; and
- "Phone Tree" telephone message system from our parish office.

Each student will be provided a Folder during the first class period. Your child will place notices, homework, and completed class work in the folder for you to review. The folder is to be taken home each week, and brought back to class the following week. Depending on grade level, the Catechist may ask that your child's folder come back signed by a parent to indicate the parent's review of the material.

In addition, please be sure to read the Church Bulletin frequently for announcements that may affect the PSR student body.

NOTE: parents should feel free to discuss any concerns or requests with your child's catechist, the PSR Coordinators, Youth Ministers, or the Director of Religious Education at any time.

Four Pillars of Catholic Spiritual Journey

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, centered his call to become his disciples by balancing **four pillars of faith**. The four pillars of faith and spirituality, as taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church are:

The Creed of Faith - Catechesis
The Sacramental Life - Worship of God
The Christian Life - Morality and Service
Christian Prayer - Community

Our parish's School of Religious Education Program incorporates each of these pillars as part of our Christian journey and response to our Lord Jesus to "Come, follow me."

PSR PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our PSR program and Youth Ministries have a large number of children and teens spanning 14 different grade levels, from Pre-K through High School! In order to run smoothly, our program requires the work and dedication of many volunteers. We ask that all families prayerfully consider how they may contribute to this year's PSR Program. Listed below are the main volunteer categories along with brief descriptions of each. If you would like more information on any specific area, please contact the Parish School of Religion.

- **Catechist** — provides weekly instruction to children in matters of our Catholic Faith.
- **Catechist's Aide** — Assists the catechist with instruction and other classroom duties.
- **Substitute Catechist** — fills in for catechists in the event of illness or other absences.
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word Leader** — During Sunday Mass, when we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word, our children through grade 5 are brought to a separate space to share in the Sacred Scriptures for that Sunday.
- **PSR H.E.L.P. (Heads-up, Easy, Loving, Purposeful) Mothers/Fathers** — assists the catechetical program and aides in planning and providing refreshments for students, classroom activities and special parties.
- **Special Events Volunteers** — There are PSR-wide special events planned during the year. Volunteers are needed to help plan, coordinate, staff and execute these events:
 - *Service for Christ* activities (the 3rd Saturday of each month - October thru April);
 - *Sunday Celebrations of our Parish Youth* (2 times a year);
 - *Rosary Rally Prayer Service* (October);
 - *Christmas Program for Children* (Christmas Eve - December);
 - *Justice and Peace - Stand Up For Life* (January);
 - *National Day of Prayer for Families* (1st Sunday in February);
 - *Lenten Stations of the Cross Prayer Service* (March);
 - *Lenten Fish Fry* (Fridays during Season of Lent);
 - *Mardi Gras Celebration* (Tuesday before Ash Wednesday);
 - *Children's Easter Scavenger & Egg Hunt*;
 - *Crowning of Blessed Virgin Mary Image* (1st Sunday of May);
 - *Vacation Bible School* (June).



*The
Cross
Leads
Us To
Life*

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

The Sacrament of Baptism begins our journey with Christ. This gift of God's grace enables us to become children of God and members of Christ's Church. Receiving any sacrament within our parish requires some form of preparation and learning. The Archdiocese of Atlanta has a policy that no child may receive a sacrament unless he/she has been an active participant in a parish religious education program (attendance in a Catholic School may substitute for actual attendance at formal classes held at the parish). Contact the pastor for further information.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Children in second grade must have been baptized in the Roman Catholic Church in order to receive First Holy Communion (It is a common practice that children will also receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to receiving First Holy Communion). A baptism certificate must be turned in to the School of Religion Program or the Church Office as soon as possible (six weeks prior to the date of the reception of the sacrament).



The Office of the Archbishop of Atlanta requires children who are planning to receive their First Holy Communion to be an active participant in a parish religious education formation program (*enrollment in a Catholic School will supplement a child's preparation for receiving this sacrament but does not replace participation in the parish's program*). A child must be enrolled in the First Grade parish program or a Catholic School during the previous school year. Parent preparation meetings are also required.



If a child is over the age of seven (7) years old and the child has never been baptized or was baptized in another religious denomination, please refer to page 18 of this Handbook.



HOLY COMMUNION



REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST MOST HOLY COMMUNION

1. At least one parent must be a baptized Catholic and an active, registered member of Most Blessed Sacrament Church.

An active member is consider to be a person who attends our church regularly and contributes to the financial support of the parish;

A registered member is a person who has filled out and submitted a Most Blessed Sacrament Church registration form.

2. In order for a child to receive the First Holy Communion for the first time he/she must normally have been a regular participant for **two (2) full years in the parish's catechesis program (PSR)**. If a parent is new to the church (less than six months) then normally a letter from the parent's previous church and pastor regarding membership at former parish should be sent to Most Blessed Sacrament Church.
3. There will be an additional \$20.00 charged per child for the additional and special materials used in preparation for receiving this sacrament.
4. Parent(s) are expected to attend **all the scheduled meetings** to assist in preparing their children for the reception of Most Holy Communion.
5. Children must meet the age requirements of seven (7) years old for Communion.
6. All information regarding your child's baptism must be into the church office prior to the date of First Holy Communion / First Penance. If your child was NOT baptized at Most Blessed Sacrament, please submit a Photostat copy of your child's baptism certificate or obtain a new copy of your child's baptism certificate directly from the parish of baptism. Please do not submit your child's original certificate to church office - we cannot guarantee it will be returned to you.

Renewing the Vision

A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Goal 1: To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today...

Goal 2: To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community...

Goal 3: To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person...

Components of a Comprehensive Ministry

It takes the entire Church to achieve the three goals established by the U.S. Bishops for ministry with children and adolescents. The framework for integrating the Church's ministry with youth incorporates a broader, expanded, and more comprehensive vision rather than a single program or recipe for ministry. The comprehensive framework is designed to enrich family life and promote the faith growth of families of adolescents; provide appropriate programs and activities that promote personal and spiritual growth for young and older adolescents; and utilize each of the Church's ministries:

The Ministry of Advocacy

The Ministry of Catechesis

The Ministry of Community Life

The Ministry of Evangelization

The Ministry of Justice and Service

The Ministry of Leadership Development

The Ministry of Pastoral Care

The Ministry of Prayer and Worship

Ministry of Advocacy: The ministry of advocacy encourages the Church to examine its practice of fully integrating adolescents into the life of the Church. How are the voices of young people honored and heard in the Church? How are the gifts, talents, and energy of young people respected and utilized within our faith community? It is imperative that the Church models what it advocates for society.

Ministry of Catechesis: Genuine faith is total response of the whole person, mind, heart, and will. The ministry of catechesis fosters growth in Catholic faith in all three dimensions; trusting (heart), knowing and believing (mind), and doing (will). The ministry of catechesis recognizes that faith development is a lifelong process. The ministry of catechesis recognizes many learning methods however emphasizes the need to share the core content of the Catechism of the Catholic Church with our youth to build a solid foundation and promote continued growth.

Ministry of Community Life: The ministry of community life builds an environment of love, support, appreciation for diversity, and judicious acceptance that models Catholic principles: develops meaningful relationships; and nurtures Catholic faith. Community life is nurtured when the atmosphere is welcoming, comfortable, safe, and predictable—one in which all adolescents know that their presence is welcomed, their energy is appreciated, and their contributions are valued. Community life is enhanced when all leaders promote and model an attitude that is authentic, positive, accepting, and understanding – assuring all young people that they are valued and cared for as a gifted individual. Community life is encouraged when our actions are inviting, supportive, and gospel-based. Community life is created when activities build trust and encourage relationships, and are age-appropriate.

Ministry of Evangelization: The ministry of evangelization incorporates several essential elements: witness, outreach, proclamation, invitation, conversion, and discipleship. Evangelization is the energizing core of all ministries with adolescents. All the relationships, ministry components, and programs of comprehensive ministry with adolescents must proclaim the Good News. They must invite young people into a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and empower them to live as his disciples.

Ministry of Justice and Service: Our faith calls us to work for justice; to serve those in need; to pursue peace; and to defend the life, dignity, and rights of all our sisters and brothers. The ministry of justice and service nurtures in young people a social consciousness and a commitment to a life of justice and service rooted in their faith in Jesus Christ, in the Scriptures, and in Catholic social teaching; empowers young people to work for justice by concrete efforts to address the causes of human suffering; and infuses the concepts of justice, peace and human dignity into all ministry efforts.

Ministry of Leadership Development: The ministry of leadership development calls forth, affirms, and empowers the diverse gifts, talents, and abilities of adults and young people in our faith communities for comprehensive ministry with adolescents. Leadership roles in adolescent ministry are key. Leaders must be trained and encouraged. This approach involves a wide diversity of adults and youth leaders in a variety of roles. Many will be involved in direct ministry with adolescents; others will provide support services and yet others will link the ministry efforts to the resources of the broader community.

Ministry of Pastoral Care: The ministry of pastoral care is a compassionate presence in imitation of Jesus' care of people, especially those who were hurting and in need. The ministry of Pastoral care involves promoting positive adolescent and family development through a variety of positive (preventive) strategies; caring for adolescents and families in crisis through support, counseling, and referral to appropriate community agencies; providing guidance as young people face life decisions and make moral choices; and challenging systems that are obstacles to positive development (advocacy). Pastoral care is most fundamentally a relationship—a ministry of compassionate presence.

Ministry of Prayer and Worship: The ministry of prayer and worship celebrates and deepens young people's relationship with Jesus Christ through the bestowal of grace, communal prayer and liturgical experiences; it awakens their awareness of the Spirit at work in their lives; it incorporates young people more fully into the sacramental life of the Church, especially Eucharist; it nurtures the personal prayer life of young people; and it fosters family rituals and prayer.

Youth Ministry

Goal 1 - Youth Ministry ... it's about discipleship

The first goal of youth ministry is “to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.” (RTV 9). Young people are “searching for a noble adventure”, a compelling and challenging vision of life, and a cause worth their commitment. They hunger to hear the Good News that finds response in discipleship. As their companions on this spiritual journey, some of the ways the Church fulfills this first goal of youth ministry is by ...

- Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus through witness and word to young people.
- Enabling young people to live as disciples through their involvement in service, ministry, and leadership opportunities.
- Providing young people the faith skills for discipleship.

Goal 2 - Youth Ministry ... it's about connection

The second goal is “to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.” (RTV 11). Young people have a hunger for connection, to be in relationship, and to belong. Family, peers, school, youth serving organizations, and church are primary connections for young people. Some of the ways the church fulfills this second goal of youth ministry is by ...

- Being a ‘youth friendly’ community that welcomes young people, values their participation, and calls forth their gifts.
- Integrating young people into the liturgical, pastoral, and ministerial life of the parish community.
- Creating opportunities for young people to enter into healthy relationships of trust and respect with their peers and with adults.
- Promoting Catholic identity and religious literacy through programs of adolescent catechesis.

Goal 3 - Youth Ministry ... it's about gifts and growth

The third goal of youth ministry is “to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.” (RTV 15). Adolescence is an important time for mental, spiritual, social, and physical growth. Their experiences and relationships greatly influence their healthy and positive development. The Church strives to surround young people with the best possible external scaffolds—networks of caring relationships of family, school, peers, and other adults—while young people are developing their internal psychological and spiritual backbone—their values, life skills, commitments, and moral compass. The church fulfills this third goal of youth ministry by...

- Enabling young people to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.
- Actively supporting positive youth development and fostering healthy values and life skills.
- Supporting families of young people by providing resources, programs, and services.
- Providing opportunities to experience and express caring, service, and compassion for others.

Middle School Youth Ministry & Catechesis Program



F.U.B.U. (Friends Under Blessed Unity) is our Catholic middle school youth ministry for early adolescents in grades six, seven and eight. MSYM - FUBU is designed to meet the educational, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of young adolescents, and to ease the transitions these teens will make coming from elementary school, and heading into high school.

MSYM - FUBU:

- Is experiential, allowing the middle school youth different occasions to put their faith into action in a variety of ways: group discussion, small group activities, service projects, etc.
- Has a catechetical theme for each year.
- Serves the diversity of personalities found in middle school youth by offering both large and small group settings.

Goals of MSYM - FUBU:

- To help ease the transition from elementary school, and to bridge the gap into high school.
- To make the middle school youth feel welcome and to help the Church be a place they WANT to come to.
- Foster a transforming spiritual experience of Jesus through the liturgy, allowing early adolescents to have a profound experience of the Word of God and the Eucharist.
- Create a positive experience of the Catholic Church for early adolescents.
- Assist middle school youth in gaining an understanding and appreciation for what the Catholic Church teaches and believes.
- Incorporate the Catholic Church's vision of social justice and peace into their spiritual life.
- Develop an identity in middle school youth to make them a vital and visual presence in the parish.



High School Ministry & Catechesis Program

Mental, physical, social, and spiritual are all vital aspects of the teenager's development. None should be neglected! A clear understanding of the meaning and expectations of being a Catholic Christian in today's world is so important in the young person's life. Most Blessed Sacrament offers opportunities to reach out in service, to develop a personal spirituality, to learn about the Catholic faith, and to connect with others who hold similar values and beliefs.



Our ministry to teens (grades 9 - 12) offer a program designed to include guest speakers, activities, personal demonstrations, and prayer. Catechetical lessons (as developed through the St. Mary's **Total Faith Initiative Series**), teen rap sessions and group and individual community service projects address all eight points outlined by the U.S. Catholic Bishops in "Renewing the Vision" and the 4 pillars of faith taught by the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. Every session will be planned to address an issue which is of particular concern to teens and be presented in a way that will be appealing to them.

Teens will be asked to attend at least one weekend retreat as part of the school year ministry journey. Contact our parish's Youth Minister for further information and for a schedule.

Our parish's high school group calls themselves *The Radicals for Christ Teen Group*. This group of young people include during their regular meeting times opportunities to discuss and plan outside activities for fun and projects for community service to the parish. Members of the Radicals for Christ Teen Group are encourage to become involved in various parish ministries and organizations fitting for their age range.

Sacrament of Confirmation

When does a boy become a Christian young man? When does a girl become a Christian young woman? Traditionally, society and Christian communities have helped youth to pass from childhood and enter into young adulthood. The **Sacrament of Confirmation** Program is designed to challenge participants to live out their faith as Catholic Christians under the Holy Spirit's guidance. In addition to the normal teen ministry religious education program, participants seek to personally incorporate a Christian standard of living which includes spirituality, service, history, economics, politics, community involvement, career development, physical values, and family and personal responsibility. A required weekend retreat will be scheduled through the Parish School of Religion High School Ministry Program.

Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be expected to offer him/herself to share their stewardship of time and talent on a regular basis in areas as examples of Christian living: these areas would include time and talent to the parish, and time and talent to their community.

Requirements for the Sacrament of Confirmation

1. Candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation must be a baptized Catholic and an active, registered member of Most Blessed Sacrament Church.

An active member is considered to be a person who attends church regularly and contributes to the financial support of the parish;

A registered member is a person who has filled out and submitted a Most Blessed Sacrament Church registration form.

If a candidate is new to the church (less than six months) then a letter from the candidate's previous church and pastor regarding membership at former parish must be sent to Most Blessed Sacrament Church.

2. Candidate must be in high school, in at least the tenth (10th) grade and have received First Most Holy Communion.
3. There is a \$20.00 fee to cover the materials and expenses associated with preparation to receive this sacrament. All fees must be current.
4. Candidate is expected to have a reasonable and basic knowledge of the Catholic faith.
5. Candidate is expected to attend scheduled meetings and sessions of the **1) Confirmation Preparation Program, AND 2) either attend a Catholic High School or be active in the parish Teen Ministry & Catechesis Program.**
6. If candidate was not baptized at Most Blessed Sacrament Church, then a copy of your baptism certificate should be obtained directly from the parish of baptism. You may also submit a Photostat copy.
7. All information regarding the candidate's baptism must be into the church office prior to the date of Confirmation (no less than eight (8) weeks prior to reception of Sacrament).
8. Each candidate is responsible for selecting a Confirmation Sponsor. Sponsor must be an active, practicing Catholic. If sponsor is not a member of Most Blessed Sacrament, then sponsor must obtain a letter from his/her church and pastor regarding membership.
9. Each candidate is responsible for 1) choosing a Christian service project for the year; 2) reviewing their Christian service activities regularly with his/her Confirmation Sponsor; and 3) accomplishing the goals of their Christian service project. These Christian service activities must be submitted to the pastor for approval.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

WHO PARTICIPATES IN THIS RITE?

The R.C.I. is for any adult or child above the age of eight who is seeking the **Sacraments of Christian Initiation** (*The Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, or Confirmation*) and who have had little or no previous Catholic Religious Education.

These persons could be (1) children of adults who are seeking initiation into the Catholic Church; (2) children whose parents had drifted from their faith and are now seeking to raise their child(ren) in their faith; (3) children of a parent who has just remarried and is attempting to rectify the neglected religious education of their child(ren); (4) a child is seeking initiation on his/her own part from the faith of their parents (child must be at least in the 8th grade to join faith without parent(s)); or (5) an adult who is seeking to receive the sacraments of baptism, holy communion or confirmation.

The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCI) is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. This process is designed for adults, but also has an adaptation for children and youth. The central and underlying principle of the Rite is conversion. This process of conversion takes place within the family and the "community of believers"- the parish, who will pray with you, share our lives with you, break open God's word with you, celebrate liturgies with you and together we will journey in faith.

WHAT SHOULD I DO FIRST???

Contact either the Director of Religious Education or the Pastor for an appointment for further information.

