

Pax Christi  Catholic Community

**Faith Formation
and Sacramental
Preparation
Offerings**

2011-12



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Faith Formation Program Options for 2011-12

Pax Christi community members with children will have a variety of opportunities to choose from when registering their children:

- ◆ Sunday School (Pre-K-Kindergarten by September 1)
- ◆ Elementary Classroom Program (Grades 1-6)*
- ◆ The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program (ages 3-Grade 3)*
- ◆ House Church Formation Program (Grades K-8)
- ◆ Middle School Youth Ministry and Formation Programs (Grades 7-8)
- ◆ Senior High Youth Ministry and Formation Programs (Grades 9-12)
- ◆ Home Study (grades K-8 with special arrangement made with the director)

(*)provide two day/time options for the Classroom and Good Shepherd programs.

How to Register:

1. Register online by going to www.paxchristi.com; OR
2. Download form from the Pax Christi website, www.paxchristi.com, and send with payment to Pax Christi Catholic Community,

Registration Directions:

1. Select a program for your child(ren).
2. Indicate the day and time.
3. Register by September 1. Registrations received after September 1 will be subject to a higher fee.
4. Call the office at 952-941-3150 if you have questions.

Fees

EARLY BIRD \$65 per participant **MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 1.** .
After September 1. , the fee is \$90 per participant. (No family cap).

Dates

Sessions for all program offerings will begin the week of September 25.

Faith Formation Staff

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From the Source...

Drawing on the Catholic source of Scripture and Tradition, Pax Christi Catholic Community seeks to provide support and resources to promote growth in the Christian way of life for people of all ages. More than just religious education, these ministries acknowledge and celebrate that the whole life of the parish community forms the members in their faith.

From Scripture...

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

The basis of Church teaching is found in Sacred Scripture. God's voice transmitted through the authors of the books found in scripture join with tradition to form a single deposit of faith. Scripture also forms us whenever we gather to pray. The Word of God proclaimed in the midst of the gathered assembly guides us as we carry out the work God has called us to do. Catholics are urged to draw more deeply into the mystery of faith revealed in scripture through prayer, study and reflection.

From Tradition and Practice...

More than 40 years ago the Second Vatican Council brought "fresh air" to the Church and prescribed many reforms for implementation. One of the prescriptions was that a "directory for the catechetical instruction of the Christian people be drawn up." The first directory was promulgated in 1971 under Pope Paul VI. The current revised *General Directory for Catechesis* was put forth under John Paul II in 1997.

There are two main goals of the directory. The first is to support the evangelizing role of faith formation for all people, namely by sharing

the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world. The second goal is to bring clarity and conviction to the content of our faith, especially as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. In other words, how do we help all ages break open and appreciate the richness and heritage of the Sacred Tradition and Church teaching.

Six fundamental tasks of catechesis have been identified by the directory. Together these six form a framework for implementing parish faith formation offerings for all ages. The six tasks are:

- Promoting Knowledge of Faith-Helping the faithful know, understand and integrate Catholic beliefs.
- Liturgical Education-Helping the faithful know how the Church worships through full, conscious and active participation in liturgy.
- Moral Formation-Helping the faithful recognize, understand and express that each person is called as a disciple of Jesus to love, forgive and serve others, and to protect the life and dignity of all of God's people.
- Teaching to Pray-Helping the faithful learn to pray as Jesus did: adoration, praise, thanksgiving, relational confidence and awe.
- Education for Community Life-Helping the faithful cultivate and participate in the life of the community and parish ministries, in the spirit and witness of Christian stewardship.
- Missionary Initiative-Helping the faithful to become disciples of Christ, present in society, and able to witness their faith.

These are the areas that will receive the highest priority from our parish faith formation ministry for children, youth and adults. Obviously, none of us are ever "done" learning about our faith. Each of these areas provides a promise and direction for deepening our understanding of the mystery of God's love coming to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Consider what you need or want to know in each of these areas. Bring this hunger to our parish faith formation ministry by participating, volunteering and providing leadership to our community

Role of Parents

Church teaching is strong and clear in support of the role of parents as the first and primary teachers of their children in the ways of faith. To be effective in their role, parents, indeed all adults, must be active in their own spiritual growth and knowledge of the many dimensions of being a follower of Jesus Christ.

Accordingly, the parish provides faith formation for parents whenever a child is preparing to celebrate a sacrament. Active participation on the part of parents is a strong expectation of parish sacramental preparation programs.

Additional adult offerings will be provided throughout the year. As often as possible, these programs will be in sync by day and time with offerings for children.

Special Needs: Children with special needs are welcome to participate in faith formation and sacramental preparation programs. There is a special needs program offered on Sunday mornings during the 9:00AM Mass. We are also committed to providing extra help or assistance so children can participate in all programs if at all possible. Please contact the faith formation staff to discuss this in detail.

*“The Christian family is called the domestic church because the family manifests and lives out the communal and familial nature of the church as the family of God.
Each family member,
in accord with his or her own role,
exercises the baptismal priesthood
and contributes toward making the family
a community of grace and of prayer,
a school of human and Christian virtues,
and the place where faith
is first proclaimed to children.”*

Pope Benedict XVI

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Both the preparation for and the celebration of the sacraments at Pax Christi belong to the whole parish community. By this it is understood that all members of the community have important contributions to make in supporting those in sacramental preparation. This approach also means that the active presence of the community is essential for sacramental celebration.

The sacraments are a gift from God to be shared for the benefit of the individual, the community and the world. All participants involved in sacramental preparation are expected to be members of the parish and registered in one of the ongoing faith formation programs.

First Eucharist (2nd Grade and older)

The Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is the “source and summit” for our lives as Christians. Preparing children to come to the table of the Lord for the first time is a significant moment in their lives and the life of the community.

Adequate preparation will also support their spiritual growth and make it clear that as they are nourished by the Eucharist, they are called to feed and serve others around them. Children must be baptized before beginning preparation for this sacrament. A copy of your child’s baptism certificate will be needed if not baptized at Pax Christi.

Preparation sessions for parents and children generally coincide with the day/time classroom time options (except for the retreat).

Preparation Sessions: Parent and Child

Sundays	6:30PM	March 4,11,18,25
Wednesdays	4:45 or 6:45 PM	March 7,14,21,28

Retreat and Practice: Parent and Child

April 14, 9:00AM-NOON

Celebrations: The Whole Family is Invited

Saturday	April 21	5:00PM
Sunday	April 22	9:00, 11:00 AM or 5:00PM
Saturday	April 28	5:00PM
Sunday	April 29	9:00, 11:00 AM or 5:00PM

Mystagogy Session:

Regular session with catechists

Reconciliation (Grade 2 and older)

"...through the ministry of the Church, may God grant you pardon and peace..."

This excerpt from the prayer of absolution makes it clear that the whole community has a role to play in celebrating the grace of God's mercy and forgiveness. Preparation for Reconciliation involves the child, the parents and the community. Sessions generally coincide with the classroom program day/time options.

Preparation Sessions: Parent and Child

Wednesdays	October 12 and 26	4:45 or 6:45PM
Sundays	October 16 and 30	6:30PM

Retreat and Practice: Parent and Child

Saturday, November 5, 9:00-11:00AM

Celebrations: The Whole Family is Invited

Tuesday, November 8, 7:00PM (A-L) OR
Thursday, November 10, 7:00PM (M-Z)

Mystagogy Session:

Regular session with catechists

Confirmation (10th Grade and older)

Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation. It is another step in the life long process of journeying with one another toward God. Youth in the tenth grade and older are invited to prepare for this sacrament at Pax Christi, along with the support of their family and a sponsor. Because confirmation is not "graduation" or completion of faith formation, all students are expected to receive continuous religious instruction prior to, during, and following the reception of this sacrament.

Along with regular weekly participation in the high school faith formation program, students desiring the sacrament of confirmation, along with their sponsor and/or parent, will be asked to attend seven preparation sessions held on the following dates:

Session 1	October 9	6:30-7:45PM
Session 2	November 13	6:30-7:45PM
Session 3	January 22	6:30-7:45PM
Session 4	February 12	6:30-7:45PM
Retreat Day 1st option		9:00AM-4:00PM

Retreat Day 2nd option		9:00AM-4:00PM
Session 5	March 11	6:30-7:45PM
Session 6	April 15	6:30-7:45PM

In addition, students will be expected to complete appropriate paperwork requesting the sacrament, participate in service projects and write a reflection regarding these, and attend an on-site day-long retreat experience.

Confirmation will take place on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis.



FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

Sunday School (Pre-K-Kindergarten by September 1)

Sunday School is a lectionary-based religious education program for Prekindergarten and Kindergarten level children and their families. Children are assigned to a class of 8-10 children. Parents must check children into their assigned rooms ten minutes prior to the start of the 9:00AM Mass.

Themes for each Sunday School session flow from the day's gospel reading. Each Sunday School session consists of a large-group gathering of the children to listen to and talk about the gospel story, and praise God through prayer and song. Following the large-group gathering, children and catechists adjourn to their rooms to complete the morning lesson.

For more information or to discuss how you can help with the program, please call Carol Osterhus, 952-405-7213.

Sunday School Option:
Sundays, 9:00AM Mass

Elementary Classroom Program (Grades 1-6)

The classroom program option is open to children in grades 1-6. Children come together by grade level in small groups and are led by a trained catechist. The parish curriculum is "Faith First: Legacy

Edition” by RCL publications. This series supports children as they grow in their knowledge and understanding of the four pillars of our faith (Creed, Sacraments, Morality and Christian Prayer). These timeless truths from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* are taught every year on every grade level. The program also includes hands-on-experiences of prayer, community and opportunities for service.

In addition to the classroom sessions, parents and children will come together with those from other faith formation programs for Community Nights.

Throughout the year, children and their families will also be asked to be active participants in the 6 pm Mass on Wednesday evenings. Different grade levels will be invited to be greeters, readers and/or bring up the gifts. Specific scheduling information will be sent to parents via email.

Parents are urged to consider volunteering in the classroom program as a catechist, aide or other support role. For further information, please contact Reneé Dignan at 952-405-7212.

Classroom Day/Time Options:

Sundays:	6:30-7:45 PM
Wednesdays:	4:45-6:00 PM
	6:45-8:00 PM

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program (ages 3-Grade 3)

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based religious formation program for children from ages 3 to grade 3. Originally developed in Rome by Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew scholar, and Gianna Gobbi, a descendant of Maria Montessori, the catechesis seeks to create and facilitate a sacred "hands-on" space called an atrium, in which both the children and the catechists hear, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Catholic faith as revealed in the Scripture and the Liturgy. The catechist does not “teach” a child about God, instead simply fosters a relationship between the child and God with quiet meditation and carefully prepared materials.

In addition to the Good Shepherd sessions, parents and children will come together with those from other faith formation programs for Community Nights.

Parents are needed to volunteer in the Good Shepherd program as a catechist, aide or other support role. For further information, please contact Michael Griffin at 952-405-7230.

Good Shepherd Day/Time Options:

Level I (Ages 3-5)	
Sundays	9:00-10:15 AM 10:45-12:00NOON
Wednesdays	9:30-10:45AM 4:45-6:00 PM
Level II (Grades 1-3)	
Sundays	6:30-7:45 PM
Wednesdays	4:45-6:00 PM

Please note there is no GS III session due to lack of trained catechist.

House Church Formation Program (Grades K-8)

The term House Church originated from the days of the early Church when Christian communities gathered regularly or spontaneously in a home to break bread together and learn about Jesus Christ. They proved to be an effective way of creating community and engaging in outreach. At Pax Christi the House Church not only supports each other as they increase their knowledge of the Catholic faith, but they also reach out to the community around them as they live the message of service to others that Jesus proclaimed in his “Sermon on the Mount.”

To participate, a family is defined as one adult and at least one child in grade K-8. Siblings in preschool and grades 9-12, grandparents, and other individuals considered “family” are welcome to participate with the rest of the family. House Churches consist of about 5 families. All families opting to belong to a House Church, both previously enrolled and newly registered, are welcome to form their own House Church group when they complete registration materials. Those families not indicating placement preference will be placed in House Church groups by the program coordinator based upon the age of the children.

The House Church groups use *Faith First Legacy Edition* by RCL—that supports learning of what we believe as Catholics and also how to live out those beliefs in daily life.

House Church groups meet for 90 minutes twice each month. The dates and times for these meetings are determined by the participants of each House Church group. Pax Christi meeting rooms can be reserved through the House Church program coordinator, Carol Osterhus, 952-405-7213. In addition, all House Church groups

will meet four times on site throughout the year for specific thematic faith gatherings.

All House Church groups that are formed must have one parent volunteer to be the House Church facilitator. These facilitators meet with the program coordinator periodically for support and to take this information back to their House Church group. The role of facilitator may be rotated within the House Church group.

House Church Day/Time Options:
Determined by the group.

Gatherings for all House churches:
5:30 Meal, 6:00–7:30PM Program
September , November
January , March

Youth Ministry

Youth programming at Pax Christi Catholic Community seeks to inspire our youth to joyfully commit to living and sharing their Catholic faith which is guided by the Holy Spirit. We will create an environment which leads youth into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and the Church. We will accomplish this mission...

*Through celebration of the Eucharist,
Through the teachings of Christ and the Church,
Through an experience of being loved and accepted.*

Middle School Youth Ministry and Formation Programs (Grades 7-8)

All 7th and 8th graders are invited to grow in their faith through our exciting and interactive Middle School programming. We will cover the major areas of Catholic formation during these years as students study Scripture, Creed Church, Sacraments, Prayer and Social Justice and Catholic Morality. Youth will be encouraged to apply what they learn to their daily lives and will discuss how their faith is being lived out. Besides “class” sessions (Wednesday evenings), youth are encouraged to participate in weekly liturgies, service opportunities, Bible studies, social activities, and retreat experiences offered throughout the year.

Classes for 7th & 8th grade students will be held on Wednesdays, beginning September 28. Class sessions will take place either 4:45–8:00 PM OR 6:45–8:00 PM.

Every class session will be designed to be engaging, interactive, and challenging. Students will meet as a whole group but will have a “break” period for meeting in small grade level groupings for deeper discussion and activity surrounding the lesson. Various prayer experiences will be included with each class.

In addition to the weekly sessions, parents and youth will come together with those from other faith formation programs for Community Nights.

Parents are urged to consider volunteering in the Middle School program as a catechist. Please call, Cindy Novak, 952-405-7214 to learn more.

Middle School Options:

Wednesdays:	4:45-6:00 PM
	6:45-8:00 PM

Senior High Youth Ministry and Formation Programs (Grades 9-12)

All 9th – 12th grade students are invited to continue their faith journey with our lively, interactive high school programming. During the high school years, youth will be exploring the topics of Sacred Scripture, Person of Christ, Paschal Mystery, Church, Sacraments, Morality, Social Justice and Vocation. Most importantly, youth will deepen their understanding of the faith and be challenged to live it out in a meaningful way in their daily lives. Besides “class” sessions on Sunday evenings, youth are encouraged to participate in weekly liturgies, service opportunities, Bible studies, social activities, and retreat experiences offered throughout the year.

Classes for 9th–12th grade students will be held on Sundays, beginning September 25. Youth (and their families) are encouraged to attend the 5:00 PM Mass followed by youth programming including a light supper and our class sessions, which will conclude at 7:45 PM.

Every class session will be designed to be engaging, interactive, and challenging. Students will meet as a whole group but will have a “break” period for meeting in small groups for deeper discussion and activity surrounding the lesson. Various prayer experiences will be included with each class.

In addition to the weekly sessions, parents and youth will come

together with those from other faith formation programs for Community Nights.

Parents are urged to consider volunteering in the senior high program as a catechist. Please contact Cindy Novak, 952-405-7214 to learn more.

Senior High Options:

Sundays 5:00 Mass, 6:00 Meal, 6:30–7:45 Formation

Home Study (Grades K-8)

Family life is indispensable to the faith formation of children and cannot be replicated here at the parish. We also know that parish life is indispensable and cannot be replicated at home. This is why we strongly encourage participation in faith formation programs in addition to what is provided in the home. However, we also know that at times and in certain circumstances, home life and family life are not easily put in sync together. Home Study is a fallback offering designed to provide parish materials for home use with parents guiding children through the curriculum. Please contact Michael Griffin, 952-405-7230 when considering Home Study as an option.

ADDITIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

56ers Ministry: For 5th and 6th graders

The mission of this ministry is to connect our children with the needs of the community and surrounding areas by submersing them into the servicing and giving of themselves. We gather together throughout the year for fellowship, and friendship. Watch the bulletin, website, bulletin boards, and other mailings for more information. Youth are always welcome to contact Reneé Dignan at any time by calling 952-405-7212.

Parents are urged to consider volunteering as chaperones and drivers for youth activities. Please contact Reneé Dignan for more information.

PaxJAM: For 7th and 8th graders

Days in Faith—Once a month youth will be invited to others from the parish and their own friends for fun, faith relationships with God and one another. Seasonal feasts, snacks, music, prayer and interactive learning all in a social format. A one-time permission slip is the only “ticket”



needed to participate. Accompanied first time friends are always welcome and will be given a permission slip for future participation. Check the website for current schedule of events.

Pax JAM Social and Service Saturdays-Friends in faith gather once a month for fun, service to others and some time to grow in faith. Because these monthly events will often be off-site, proper staffing and transportation will be required. Therefore, a separate permission slip and small fee may be necessary. Check the website for current schedule of events.

PEER MINISTRY (Confirmed youth, 11th & 12th grade; 10th grade by recommendation)

Peer Ministry at Pax Christi assists in personal faith growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ, develops leadership skills, and provides an opportunity for their use within a ministry setting.

Peer ministers attend monthly prayer and leadership training sessions, assist with Middle School faith formation sessions on a weekly basis, and are available to participate in and/or encourage the participation of others in various ministry offerings such as Bible studies, service projects, and social outings. Additionally, they are dedicated to daily prayer and Scripture reading as a means for personal faith growth.

Peer Ministry is for mature high school youth seeking a deeper level of involvement in their faith through service in their parish community.

Pax Christi  Catholic Community

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