

## The Religious Education Department promotes the teaching mission of the Catholic Church.

### Religious Education Classes

Our class times/locations are as follows . . .

Sunday Morning at St. Joseph's School

From 9:30am to 10:40am - after which all attendees are encouraged to then attend the 11am Mass

Wednesday Evening at St. Catherine's School

From 6:30pm to 7:45pm

**K-6 Classrooms** use the *Be My Disciples* program from **RCL Benziger**. This is a *spiral* curriculum that shares the Christian story by using reflection on Scripture and doctrine, plus prayer celebrated in every classroom every week, as well as in larger group settings during all the major seasons of the Church year. It initiates children into the community of faith and challenges them to discipleship. They will grow in knowledge, connect their faith with their experiences, and practice the skills of discipleship along their journey.

**Middle School Classrooms** -The 7th grade classes are using *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers* text by **St. Mary's Press** which serves as a review in preparation for Confirmation; and the 8th grade Confirmation classes are using the series *Decision Point!* by **Dynamic Catholic**.

**Catechists** are ordinary busy people who volunteer to share their faith with a small group of young people. The catechist guides are some of the best we have ever used, and contain all of the background material you need to plan your lesson. We give you the support you need. Plus, you get the intangible rewards of being part of a group that truly impacts the future.

**Catechist Aides** assist the catechist in whatever manner in worked out with the individual catechist. This usually involves taking attendance, helping with projects, and assisting with discipline.

**Substitute Catechists** are needed in the event a catechist is ill or cannot teach for some other reason. You need to be available on short notice to teach the class. You will use the catechist's lesson plan and carry on as much as possible with the regular program. You will be filling an important role in the smooth operation of our program.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** is an exciting Sunday morning program that occurs at the 9am (St. Catherine's) and 11am (St. Joseph's) masses. Catechists will share the Gospel reading at the children's level of understanding. The actual time commitment is dependent on the number of catechists at each location; this is an excellent opportunity for high school students. People who volunteer in this capacity have told us how rewarding it is to see how positively the children respond to the weekly readings when they are presented at their own level.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) Catechists** need to be available every morning for one week during summer vacation to share the faith with a group of children. Lesson plans and simple projects are available to make the task easy and fun. We offer two VBS opportunities within The Cluster. To help out at **St. Joseph's VBS** (the 3rd week of June), please contact Helen Dietrich. To help out at the **Ravenna Community VBS** (the third week of July), contact Diane Beckwith.

The **Religious Education Advisory Board** is made up of 4 representatives from each of the three churches who meet three times annually to offer guidance and suggestions for the betterment of our programs. All Religious Education programs are discussed (Elementary, Youth Ministry, RCIA, Children's Liturgy, & Ongoing Adult Offerings). Meetings are held in October, February, and May, and rotate among the worship sites.



The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a spiritual *process* for adults who wish to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. Adults who desire to complete the sacraments of initiation, namely baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist should contact the Director of Religious Education at (616) 899-2286 or (231) 853-6222 or by e-mail to [dre@ourcluster.org](mailto:dre@ourcluster.org) for more information.