

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

Class times/locations are as follows . . .

Sunday Morning at St. Joseph's School

9-10:30AM, followed by Mass at 11AM

Sunday Morning at St. Catherine's School

Mass at 9AM, followed by class from 10:30A-noon

K-5 Classrooms use the **Discover!** Backpack Program from **St. Mary's Press**. With the **Catholic Children's Bible** as the core text, the students are immersed in Scripture from Day 1. Inside the Activity Sheets, the students will dive into the Bible in order to complete the activity. The kit includes 20 Core Activity Sheets and 8 Liturgical Seasons lessons, as well as a unique interactive activity book. A copy of the *Catholic Children's Bible* is given to them as a part of this *kit* when they first begin, and continues to be used as their core textbook through their journey with us.

Middle School Classrooms – The 6th and 7th grade classes use **The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers** text by **St. Mary's Press** along with the Bible they received when making their 1st Communion. This material serves as a review in preparation for Confirmation; the 8th grade Confirmation classes are using **Called to Mercy**, which is a combination virtual and gathered sessions program, also by **St. Mary's Press**.

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 used and contain all of the 'extra' background materials you would need to plan and enhance 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 to whom they are assigned in whatever manner is 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 - some coverage can be planned for, but most often is same day. You will use the catechist's lesson plan and carry out as much as you can. 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 the children's level of understanding. The actual time commitment is dependent on the number of catechists at each location; this is an excellent service opportunity for high school students. Persons who have volunteered in this position in the past 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 & Aides 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 already planned out to make the task easy and fun. We offer two VBS opportunities within The Cluster – St. Joseph's VBS is the 3rd week of June, please contact Helen Dietrich for openings/details; the Ravenna Community VBS is the 3rd week of July, please contact Diane Beckwith for openings/details.

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



The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** 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 our Pastoral Associate. For more information or to register, please contact Deacon Ed Harwood through the parish offices at (616) 899-2286 or (231) 853-6222 or by e-mail to clusterpa@ourcluster.org