

**ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH**  
**REDEMPTORIST**  
224 Carrier Street NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505  
(616) 451-3043



Dear Parents,

The Office of Faith Formation welcomes you and your family to our fall beginnings. Whether you are new to our parish or are returning your children to one of our many offerings, we look forward to seeing you soon. We are excited to offer you programs to enrich and continue the religious education of your children. Just as you wouldn't consider skipping a year of your children's academic education, we hope you will give equal value to their religious and faith formation. This is ESPECIALLY true of the non-sacrament years when we build on the previous year's learning.

Our catechists are volunteer staff that loves to share their Catholic faith with children by using varied media such as art, movies, skits, puppetry, meditation, prayer, speakers and much more! We feel that your child will enjoy the time spent here actively learning about their Catholic faith and how it relates to their world. The following are brief explanations of the many programs we have planned to meet your family needs.

### **Sunday Class Offerings**

#### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Ages 3 yrs. through kindergarten 9:00-10:00 a.m.**

"Catechesis of the Good Shepherd" is a fabulous Montessori hands-on program specifically designed to educate the individual child at their own learning level. Rich in Catholic doctrine and faith, it offers child-sized Mass items and specific age activities to be discovered by each child. This class meets the first three Sundays of each month. **(must be toilet-trained)**

#### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 1st and 3rd grade 10:30-Noon**

"Catechesis of the Good Shepherd", as listed above, continues in more depth to help children discover the Biblical heritage and tenants of our Catholic religion. This class meets the first three Sundays of each month.

#### **2nd grade Sacrament Class for First Communion and First Reconciliation 10:30-Noon**

The Grand Rapids Diocese has now placed both of these sacraments at second grade. This lively, fun class is also offered on Wednesday evenings. This class is essential to receive these sacraments and meets the first three Sundays of each month. This will include four Wednesday evening parent/child meetings with Sunday, Wednesday and All Saints Academy families to keep you involved and informed. This class is open to third and fourth graders who have not yet received these sacraments.

#### **4th through 6th grade 10:30-Noon**

Our catechists at this level offer an active, thought-provoking class that not only continues the Catholic teachings but forms the necessary and age-appropriate steps between the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. It is at these ages that children experience the world through new eyes. Current events relating to their religion and world are discussed at their level of understanding. The sessions meet the first three Sundays of each month.

### **7th grade through High School CONFIRMATION CLASS 10:00-Noon**

This sacrament class is an amazing portal into a more involved membership in the Catholic Church. Our catechist, offers a meaningful program for this age group to help the students make sense of their religion and place in this community. It is rich in Catholic doctrine, traditions, self-awareness and service. The curriculum is presented by using assorted media: including movies, art, meditation, games, service projects and more. It assumes a higher level of student maturity and involvement. Students will select a sponsor who will be involved in the entire year's activities. We HIGHLY suggest choosing someone over the age of 25 who has a deep commitment to their Catholic faith and to your child. The sessions meet the first three Sundays of each month.

### **Teen Topics 8<sup>th</sup> ~ High School 10:00-Noon**

We've returned with an agenda that will include meeting twice a month. During these meetings we will encounter lively activities that will help your teen grow, not only in their Catholic faith, but also in the habits they need to acquire to be successful in school and life. We will provide a safe venue to ask questions, get real answers, laugh a lot, EAT, and maybe even get a little crazy.

### **Teen Mass- The third Sunday of September through May, at the 5:15 pm Mass,**

We showcase the talents of our teens. They assume the parts of lector, Eucharistic Minister, ushers, altar servers, choir, and musicians. We offer training for all involved. The Confirmation class will have rotating turns and we highly encourage ALL teens to join us. If you're interested, please call our office 459-5472.

### **8<sup>th</sup> ~ High School Youth Group: Specific details and schedule TBA**

## **Wednesday night class offerings**

### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Ages 4 through kindergarten 6:00 - 7:30pm**

"Catechesis of the Good Shepherd" is a fabulous Montessori hands-on program specifically designed to educate the individual child at their own learning level. Rich in Catholic doctrine and faith, it offers child-sized Mass items and specific age activities to be discovered by each child.

### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 1st and 3rd grade 6:00 - 7:30pm**

"Catechesis of the Good Shepherd", as listed above, continues in more depth to help children discover the Biblical heritage and tenants of our Catholic religion.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> grade Sacrament for First Reconciliation and First Communion 6:00 - 7:30pm**

The Diocese of Grand Rapids has put these two sacraments at the second grade level. This class, offered on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings, is essential for children to receive the sacraments. It is a fun, lively class that thoroughly explores the sacraments and much more in many practical ways. This will include four Wednesday evening parent/child meetings with Sunday, Wednesday and All Saints Academy families to keep you involved and informed. This class is open to third and fourth graders who have not yet received these sacraments.

### **3,4,5, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade 6:00 - 7:30pm**

Our catechists at this level offer an active, thought-provoking class that not only continues the Catholic teachings but forms the necessary and age-appropriate steps between the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. It is at these ages that children experience the world through new eyes. Current events relating to their religion and world are discussed at their level of understanding.