

# ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH

## OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

224 Carrier Street NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505  
(616) 459-5472



## Preschool through High School Religious Education Classes 2017-18 Class begins Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>. 2017

Dear Parents,

*The Office of Faith Formation at St. Alphonsus welcomes you and your family to our fall classes. Whether you are new to our parish or are returning your children to one of our many classes, we look forward to seeing you soon. We are excited to offer you programs to enrich your children's faith journey, as they continue to know more about our loving Father.*

*Our catechists are virtues certified with the Diocese and dedicated to providing a fun, faith filled, Catholic, hands-on program for your child. Our Catechist are volunteers who loves to share their Catholic faith with children by using varied media. They use 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.*

*The following are brief explanations of the many programs we have planned to meet your family's needs. Our classes meet on Sunday mornings. Each grade level contains diocesan-generated curriculum to assure that your child builds on the foundation of faith that you are building for them, step by step.*

### **Preschool & Young 5's RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS 10:30-Noon**

The curriculum is a Catholic Scripture-based format with hands-on learning activities. Throughout this year the children will learn about God's love through developmentally appropriate Scripture stories. The children will learn traditional Catholic prayers, and are encouraged to pray in different ways during their daily life.

### **Kindergarten, and First Grade RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS 10:30-Noon**

We will be using a curriculum that has the theme of Catechism of the Catholic Church. It is rich with Catholic Church traditions, Scripture, and prayer integrated into every class time. The classroom is set up where the children will move around from station to station with hands-on activities. Our goal is for your children to grow more in love with God and build a lifelong relationship with Him.

### **SACRAMENT Second grade FIRST COMMUNION & FIRST RECONCILIATION 10:30-Noon**

The Grand Rapids Diocese has now placed both of these sacraments at second grade and up. It is a lively, fun class that thoroughly explores the Sacraments and much more in many practical ways. Your child will receive special books to help you as parents explain the Mass as you experience it together. This class is

essential to receive these Sacraments and meets the first three Sundays of each month. This class is open to second graders and up. There will be four parent/child meetings to keep you involved and informed.

### **Third and Fourth grade RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS 10:30-Noon**

Our catechists offer activities, crafts, during their weekly instruction. They learn about the readings at Mass, and continue the age-appropriate Catholic teachings between the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. The children will build on their prayer life with traditional Catholic prayers and will learn more about the Rosary. It is at these ages that children experience the world through new eyes.

### **Fifth and Sixth grade RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS 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. Current events relating to their religion and world are discussed at their level of understanding.

### **Seventh grade through High School CONFIRMATION CLASS 10:30 - 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. Students will select a sponsor who will be involved in the entire year's activities.

### **Eighth through High School TEEN TOPICS 10:30-Noon**

During these meetings we will encounter lively conversations 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 encourage and support the students to develop a deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We will provide a safe venue to ask questions, get real answers, laugh a lot, EAT, and maybe even get a little crazy.

**Children's Masses** ~ All of the children will be welcomed to actively participate in the Children's Mass. Our hope is that they develop a strong desire to always be involved in Mass, now and as an adult. The Children's Masses are on the third Sunday of the month October through May, at the 9:00am Mass. The children will be invited and encouraged to participate at Mass by assuming the parts of a lector, Eucharistic minister, ushers, greeters, altar servers, bringing up the gifts, bringing up their own collection, and any other talents that they have to contribute. We will offer training for all involved. If your child is interested, please call our office.

**Registration fee** ~ \$45.00 per child for the year. If this is a hardship for your family, please contact Maggie Vugteveen regarding scholarships. If you have questions or concerns, please call the Office of Faith Formation.

**Registration deadline is September 25<sup>th</sup> 2017**

### **Options how to Register your child:**

- Forms are on our website [www.stalphonsusgr.org](http://www.stalphonsusgr.org)
- Forms are available at each of the exits of Church
- Forms are available at Parish Office or Office of Faith Formation
- Register after all the Masses the weekend of September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.