

# Faith Formation Classes

School-aged Children (Grades K4-5)

Held at St. Sebastian Parish

## Program Objectives:

Basic faith formation for children involves age-specific classes at St. Sebastian from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. on approximately two Sunday mornings each month. Classes are scheduled to facilitate family participation in one of our Sunday morning liturgies.



## This program offers:

- Scripture-centered catechetical education
- Supplements to take faith home
- Regular opportunities for prayer and service to others
- Special programs for families and individuals.

## Resources:

- K4/K5 uses the **Allelu!** Series, which centers upon God's gifts of creation, our relationship with Jesus, and ways we follow God.
- Grades 1-5 use the **Finding God** series from Loyola Press. This series, rooted in scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Catholic tradition, seeks to ground children in the basics of our faith and helps them and their families explore how we can live as loving, faithful followers of Christ. Each session has an "At Home" lesson, which allows the entire family to expand the experience.

## **Help Needed!**

In order to keep Faith Formation running smoothly, we need help. We are looking for catechists to help teach the children of our community. If you are willing to share your time and talents, please contact Morgan Frank.

## **Family Faith Formation**

An essential part of our Family and Youth Formation are the Family Programs, which are intergenerational lessons focused on one topic. We schedule four of these Family Programs each year, usually building upon a core theme or teaching of the Church. Each Family Program involves a fun activity, sharing in community, and take-home lessons, resources, or material for continued learning. All families are expected to participate in the Family Programs.

## **Adult Formation**

We support the life-long nature of Faith Formation by offering adult formation sessions during the time children are in class on Sunday mornings. All parents and other adults are invited to participate and add to the discussion. These sessions include topical faith formation education, dynamic speakers, and small group discussions. We strongly recommend that adults attend these sessions, they are held on one Sunday a month. With no fee to attend, we hope that the Adult Formation opportunities fit in your schedule. There will be additional opportunities for adult formation coming as well. Please keep watch for those details or contact Jon Metz. [jmetz@saintsebs.org](mailto:jmetz@saintsebs.org)

Families involved in Faith Formation receive monthly up-dates, parish information, and articles related to growing in faith.

## Contact

Morgan Frank  
Director of Child Ministry  
414-453-7150 x122  
[mfrank@saintsebs.org](mailto:mfrank@saintsebs.org)

# 2023 – 2024 Faith Formation for K4 – Grade 5

Location: St. Sebastian

## September

Sunday – 17 9:00 am Catechetical Sunday & 1st FF Classes

## October

Sunday – 1 9:00 am FF Class

Sunday – 15 9:00 am FF Class

## November

Wednesday – 1 **5:30 pm** **Family Session- All Saints Day**

Sunday – 5 9:00 am FF Class

Sunday – 19 9:00 am FF Class

## December

Sunday – 3 9:00 am FF Class

Sunday – 17 9:00 am FF Class

Sunday – 17 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm **Advent Fun Day**

## January

Sunday – 7 **9:00 am** **Family Session - Epiphany**

Sunday – 21 9:00 am FF Class

## February

Sunday – 4 9:00 am FF Class

Sunday – 18 9:00 am FF Class

## March

Sunday – 3 9:00 am FF Class

Sunday – 17 9:00 am FF Class

Sunday – 24 **10:15 am** **Family Session - Palm Sunday**

**Thursday 28 - Sunday 31** ***Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil***

## April

Sunday – 7 9:00 am FF Class

Sunday – 21 9:00 am FF Class

Monday – 22 5:00 pm **Family Session - Earth Day**

*Revised 07/31/2023*

# Catechesis of the Good

## Shepherd – Ages 3-9

Held at St. Catherine Parish

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based approach to the religious formation of children, rooted in Sacred Scripture, liturgy, and respect for the child's rich relationship with God. The word "catechesis" is often defined as oral instruction given to catechumens (those preparing for baptism). It is from a Greek word, related to the word "to teach," and means "resounding" or "echoing down." It refers to the passing on of the truths of our faith.



## CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Central to CGS is the Atrium, a room containing beautiful materials that focus the child's attention on key scripture passages or liturgical moments. Children are encouraged to move about, touch materials, discover and develop a relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd. St. Catherine has two dedicated Atriums located within St. Catherine School.

During each session, there will be an introduction by the catechist, then children are invited to work with a material on their own to continue their meditation. Because children learn by using their hands, working with materials allows them to enter more deeply into meditation, nurturing their relationship with God.

At St. Catherine we offer two levels of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:

- Level I (ages 3-6) Sunday Mornings from 8:45-10 a.m.
- Level II (ages 6-9) Monday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m.

All age levels focus on the life of Christ, the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, and on a range of parables. For the youngest learners in Level One, the heart of the Catechesis is the parable of the Good Shepherd, who knows his sheep by name and keeps them safe. For the 6-9 year old child in Level Two, the focus is on the moral parables and the image of the True Vine: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing."

### Family Faith Formation

An essential part of our Family and Youth Formation are the Family Programs, which are intergenerational lessons focused on one topic. We schedule five of these Family Programs each year, usually building upon a core theme or teaching of the Church. Each Family Program involves a fun activity, sharing in community, and take-home lessons, resources, or material for continued learning. All families are expected to participate in the Family Programs. Families also receive monthly up-dates, faith formation information, and articles related to growing in faith.

#### Contact

Bernadette Davel (CGS coordinator)  
Coordinator of Catechesis of Good Shepherd  
[bernadettedavel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bernadettedavel@sbcglobal.net)

Marie Fessenbecker (level I catechist)  
[marie.fessenbecker@gmail.com](mailto:marie.fessenbecker@gmail.com)

Pam Schein (level II catechist)  
[jschein1@wi.ri.com](mailto:jschein1@wi.ri.com)

# 2023 – 2024 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Location: St. Catherine

## Level 1

8:45-10:00

October 1  
October 8  
October 15  
October 29

November 5  
November 12  
November 19

December 3  
December 10  
December 17

January 7  
January 14  
January 21

February 4  
February 11  
February 25

March 3  
March 10  
March 17

April 7  
April 14  
April 21

## Level 2

6:00-7:30

October 2  
October 9  
October 16  
October 30

November 6  
November 13  
November 20

December 4  
December 11  
December 18

January 8  
January 15  
January 22

February 5  
February 12  
February 26

March 4  
March 11  
March 18

April 8  
April 15  
April 22

# Program Fees

*Faith Formation fees are designed to defray part of the cost of materials and programs. The fees are a necessity for the programs to occur. However, we are committed to providing catechesis to all families, no matter the ability to pay. No one is denied Faith Formation due to an inability to pay fees. If there is a concern, please contact one of the Faith Formation Ministers or Father Peter Patrick to discuss reductions, special arrangements, or waiver of fees.*

Fees are the same for participants registered in Catechesis of Good Shepherd, K4-5 Faith Formation and Youth Ministry.

- \$75.00 for one child
- \$150.00 for two children
- \$225.00 for three or more children

Please note:

- Registrations and one-fourth payment of fees are due by September 17th. (First class) ▪ SCRIP credit, if applicable, may be applied to reduce fees.
- Registrations and fees for sacramental preparation, Reconciliation/First Eucharist and Confirmation, are separate registrations.
- *If you need financial assistance, please reach out to a faith formation minister or Father Peter Patrick to discuss options. We do not want any family to not participate due to financial issues.*

## Payment Logistics

Families may choose one of the following payment plans:

- Fee paid in full with registration by September 17th
- Two equal payments: September 17th and January 1st
- Four equal payments: September 17th, December 1st, February 1st, and March 1st

By Check - Please make checks payable to either St. Sebastian or St. Catherine Parish and send to the parish or give it directly to a member of the faith formation team, by September 17th.

# Online Registration & Payment Link!

## [2023-2024 Faith Formation Registration](#)

- ★ Registration for these programs must be done online, through WeShare.
- ★ Through this link you can sign up your child(ren) participating in programs for grades K4-10th.
- ★ If you want to make installment payments, there is an option to do so.
- ★ If you need to make alternate arrangements for payment, please contact us before registering.
- ★ If you pay all fees upfront, you will not need to create a WeShare account. If you need to use the installment plan or pay later option, you must create a WeShare account.
- ★ If you need further assistance, please contact Patrick Schley at [pschley@saintsebs.org](mailto:pschley@saintsebs.org)