

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

### **For Adults-**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process invites individuals into “a period of spiritual [prayer and worship] and catechetical [learning about the Catholic Church] formation in preparation for sacramental initiation into the church.” This process invites individuals into a time of conversion, leading to the celebration of the sacraments of Christian Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.



*Were not our hearts  
burning within us  
while he spoke to us  
on the way...  
Luke 24:32*

### **For Children and Youth-**

RCIA for Children and Youth is the RCIA process adapted for young people. It meets the needs of young people over age seven who are not baptized, baptized young people over age 10 who have had no formal religious education, and young people from other faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic.

Young people are invited to come to know and love Jesus, the Catholic faith, and to grow in faith and understanding. The process prepares the young people to receive or complete their reception of the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist, and live out their faith in the Catholic community.

RCIA sessions are held year-round and meet in the Faith Community Center. The length of the process is open-ended, but at least a full calendar year is usually appropriate.

## **Summers are Special Too!**

**Vacation Bible School:** Held August 2-5 this summer!

This year's theme: **High Seas Expedition:**

**Exploring the Mighty Love of God.**

**Summer Stretch:** This is a program for youth entering 7th-9th grades held on Wednesdays for seven weeks. After morning check-in and prayer, students are placed into groups to travel to local organizations. Last summer they went to nursing homes, Goodwill, Feed my Starving and the Whittier Child Care Center. After their service is completed, lunch is served and off they go for an afternoon of great community building fun, full of activities. Registrations begin in April.

**Mission Trips for High School:** During the months of June and July. Registrations taken through January each year.

**Softball for High School:** June through August on Sunday evenings.

**We are here to serve you!  
Questions or concerns can be directed to any  
member of our formation team.**

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# Faith Formation 2010-2011



*It is our goal at the Church of St. Stephen to provide faith formation opportunities that are enriching for your entire family. You can count on us to continue to bring new and exciting programs to you. Don't forget to read the Faith Formation page of the weekly bulletin for updates and check out our web page too!*

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## **Sunday School Faith Formation**

This family-friendly program is for preschool children, kindergarteners and first graders. Classes meet in small groups for 21 weeks on Sunday mornings during 9:30 and 11:00 am Masses in the Education Center (school), beginning in October. The children are introduced to the life of Jesus through gospel stories, fun music, creative activities and tasty snacks!

## **Grades 2-5 Faith Formation**

Sessions are held for 25 weeks on either Monday or Tuesday evenings beginning in September. The evening begins at 6:15 pm as families gather in the Church for Evening Prayer. Sessions end at 7:30 pm. This program is designed to help parents and guardians nurture their children's faith by sharing our Catholic beliefs and traditions, scripture stories, seasonal celebrations, sacraments, music and prayer. The creative small-group sessions will be led by catechists; occasionally there will be large group gatherings with parents and parishioners.

## **Grades 6-8 Faith Formation**

Youth will meet in the Faith Community Center for 25 weeks on Wednesday evenings beginning in September. The evening begins at 6:15 pm as families gather in the Church for Evening Prayer. Sessions end at 7:30 pm. Youth will explore their faith in small group sessions with catechists or in large group presentations with parents and parishioners. They will be encouraged to reflect on their faith life, dialogue with others, and connect with the life of the Church. Youth and parents will put their faith into action by participating in service opportunities, prayer and liturgical celebrations.

## **Faith At Home**

### **Kindergarten - 10th Grade**

The Faith At Home program gives parents the opportunity to create a faith-filled learning experience in their home with a schedule that complements other family activities. Families are invited and encouraged to attend all family events held on campus to enhance their learning experience.



## **High School Small Group Formation**

Youth in 9th, 10th and 11th grade gather in small groups for faith sharing, fun and fellowship for approximately 10 times during the months of September - May.

Ninth and tenth grade youth meet in small groups in the Faith Community Center on scheduled Sunday evenings from 7:15-8:45 pm. The 11th grade small groups will meet in the homes of catechists on the date and times determined by each group.

All youth participate in a group service project, a retreat and attend large group events with a parent/guardian.

## **High School Teens in Action**

Small groups of 9th and 10th grade youth gather for approximately 10 times to participate in small group sessions and service projects. The curriculum content is centered on justice and service topics.

The groups meet in the Faith Community Center on scheduled Sunday evenings from 7:15-8:45 pm for lessons.

Participants also attend large group sessions with a parent/guardian. The dates and times of service projects will be decided on by the individual groups.

### **Extra ! Extra! Fun, Faith Building Events During The Year!**

The Edge: For 9th-12th Grade Youth

Open Refuge Nights: For High School Youth

Family Nights for Advent and Lent

Service Opportunities to Community Organizations

Social Events for Youth: Bowling, Ski Trips, etc.

Middle School Madness: Community Building Fun!

## **Sacrament Preparation**

Families who wish to celebrate a sacrament must be registered members of St. Stephens; young people need to be enrolled and participating in a formation program or attending any Catholic school. Sacramental preparation is in addition to ongoing faith formation. A copy of each child's baptismal certificate is required in order to receive Eucharist and Confirmation. If the child was baptized at St. Stephen's, it is not needed.

### **First Reconciliation**

Families with children in 2nd grade (or older) are invited to prepare for and celebrate First Reconciliation. Similar to First Eucharist, preparation for this sacrament consists of 2 required parent meetings, Learning Centers, and a Retreat. A book is also used for at-home preparation. First Reconciliation celebrations occur in November.

### **First Eucharist**

Families with children in 2nd grade (or older) are invited to prepare for and celebrate First Eucharist. The preparation consists of a parent meeting and parent & child participation in two events— Learning Centers and a Retreat. Parents are provided a First Eucharist book to use for home preparation. First Communion celebrations will occur after Easter at the Church of St. Stephen over the course of several weeks.

### **Confirmation**

Young people in 11th or 12th grade are invited to formally commit to a deeper understanding and involvement in their Catholic Faith. Candidates must have participated in a faith formation program via St. Stephen's formation options or a Catholic high school in 9th and 10th grade, and all will actively participate in Small Group Formation in 11th grade. Confirmation preparation offers Candidates large group events, ritual and prayer experiences, and a weekend retreat. This journey is shared with a sponsor chosen by the candidate. Confirmation is celebrated in the Spring.

