

Welcome Room

Every Wednesday afternoon prior to Religious Education classes our youngest children begin arriving from school at about 3:15 PM. Rather than have them wait outside for classes to begin, we have a WELCOME ROOM at St. John's where kindergarten through Grade 6 children gather before class begins. This venture was begun by parish volunteers and has become very popular with children and parents.

An Adult Welcome Room Coordinator and Volunteers, with Safeguarding Training, welcome children as they arrive, offer them a snack (food is provided by St. John's), oversee self-selected activities (materials are provided), visit with them and their friends until class begins and tidy up the area after the students leave.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Liturgy of the Word for Children is a program in which the Sunday scripture readings are proclaimed and explained on a level appropriate to children in Grades K through Grade 4, (older children can serve as helpers,) at the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass during the school year. Any child in this age group may participate - no registration is necessary.

Adult Leaders - lead the Scripture service, reflection, prayers and activities at the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass. Leaders are scheduled on a rotating basis; resources for preparation and reflection are provided; previous teaching experience is NOT required as this is a ministry of faith-sharing rather than teaching. We are always in need of Adult Leaders as well as Adult Assistance and Teen Helpers.

Please contact: the Parish Office or Jeanne Bitkers 920-452-9623 or jeanne@btsje.org

St John Evangelist 4k-12 Religious Education/Faith Formation Goal

The goal of our Religious Education Program for our youngest children (4K-Grade 6) is to help parents, the first teachers of their children, to plant the seeds of faith, to help children know God and His Son Jesus, to follow His example and to reach out in service and love for others. Our Catechists, Faith Formation Coordinator, Program Assistants and Parish Families all work together in partnership to ensure that children are receiving the best opportunities to grow in Faith and Knowledge.

CURRICULUM 4K – Grade 6 An overview of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Religious Education Curriculum along with specific grade level expectations can be found at: <https://www.archmil.org/Education/Curriculum.htm> This curricula describes learning outcomes at each grade level and provides concise descriptors that identifies what is to be learned and lived as the treasures of our Catholic faith are shared with our children.

In our 4K through Grade 6 Program at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Catechists use the following materials to help students meet standards and Grow in Knowledge and Faith:

Kindergarten: RCL Benziger, Stories of God's Love: This weekly leaflet focuses on Bible stories, Liturgical Seasons, Holy days, and Feast days to build a foundation in understanding our Catholic faith for our youngest students.

Grades 1-6: Loyola Press, Finding God: This series is a spiral curriculum, meaning that each year children develop a deeper understanding of recurring themes. These themes (organized into 5 units) are: God; Jesus; the Sacraments; the Church; and Morality. Each grade takes a different take on the theme and has a focus which is listed below.

- Grade 1: God is Our Creator
- Grade 2: Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Grade 3: Community
- Grade 4: Moral Life
- Grade 5: Sacraments of Initiation
- Grade 6: History and Salvation

All are in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and help build a comprehensive understanding of our Catholic faith. In addition, catechists supplement with crafts, service projects, and media to enhance learning.

SACRAMENTS: Archdiocesan policy states that children should be in religious education classes at least one year prior to receiving the Sacraments for the first time and that parent participation in Sacrament Preparation Family events is required. In order for children to understand the Sacraments they are about to receive and to be fully prepared, weekly Mass attendance during the months leading up to these events is strongly encouraged. Preparation for the following Sacraments begins in First grade.

First Reconciliation/Confession and First Eucharist/Communion: Special information about meetings and events for Second Graders and Parents will be sent to the families involved. A First Eucharist retreat will occur in Spring for all those who will receive First Eucharist/Communion (Grade 2 and some older students).

- First Reconciliation/Confession is scheduled for December (or late November).
- First Eucharist/Communion is held in Spring (late April or early May).

SAFE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION: *"As a faith-filled people, we respect and value each and every individual, as we are created in the image and likeness of God. This is why the Safeguarding All of God's Family program has been established. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee is committed to creating a safe environment where all of God's family – children, their parents and relatives, parish and school personnel, volunteers, clergy and archdiocesan central office personnel – will be able to work, live, and play in an environment where healthy and responsible relationships prevail."* –Archdiocese of Milwaukee

All adults (18 years of age and older) who work closely with children, must complete Safe Environment Education training. This 3 hour course is offered throughout the year. The

dates and location can be found on the Archdiocese website:

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/safeguarding/Safeguarding-Events.htm> Additionally, students enrolled in the Religious Education programs will learn about a topic relating to making safe and healthy choices in one of their classes annually (generally in March or April).

VOLUNTEERS: We invite you to prayerfully consider volunteering in the Religious Education Program. There are a great variety of ways to get involved, such as: Catechist (4K-6); Welcome Room Volunteer; Hall monitor; Teacher assistants, Liturgy of the Word for Children Leader or Assistant and more. Please call the Parish Office or the Religious Education Office to volunteer or for more information.

CLASS TIMES / 3:45 -5:00 pm at St. John Evangelist. New families should contact the Parish Office or the Religious Education Office to register children.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE & EXPECTATIONS: Our desire to share faith in a positive community environment. The basic expectations we have for students are responsibility, respect, and regard for safety. These expectations are shared with students at the beginning of the year, however, we greatly appreciate parents support. Calls will be made home regarding behavior when necessary.

POLICIES: The Faith Formation Program at St. John Evangelist Parish is based on the needs of our families, our children, our parish and is supported by the policies of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Below are the more pertinent policies:

Absentees: Attendance is expected at all sessions of our Religious Education (RE) program. If your child/children will be absent from class, we ask that you contact the RE office to notify us.

Arrival: Students who arrive before 3:45 PM are asked to remove coats etc. and to go downstairs to the WELCOME ROOM area prior to the start of classes.

Cancellation: If the public schools are closed due to bad weather, there will be no RE classes. Closings will be communicated through e-mail, local news channels' school/program delays and cancellations.

Communication: Be sure to check the weekly e-mails for all grades for class updates. E- mail is the primary form of communication and where pertinent information can be expected. Parents can also find additional information from the programs on the parish website, bulletin inserts, notes home, and other parish communication.

Communication Devices: Cell phones, i-pods, toys and other such items are not allowed to be used in the classroom as they can be disruptive. Please have your child silence and put away his/her phone at the beginning of class.

Parking Lot Safety: Please follow traffic patterns designated by the parish for the safety of all children. Encourage your child/children to be alert for moving vehicles while walking through the parking lots. Parents are welcome to escort their child/children across the parking areas.

Permission Slips: Some activities provided by the parish require special permission slips for that specific event. This policy is set by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. If you have questions, please feel free to ask the Coordinator of Religious Education.

Permission slips must be obtained for the following: events occurring off parish property and activities outside of the scope of class where parents are not present. Though permission slips are not required in situations where other programs not involving children are taking place in the building, all reasonable efforts will be made to inform parents of these events/activities in advance.

Prepared by the Joint Religious Education Committee and Joint Youth Ministry Committee of Blessed Trinity and St. John Evangelist Parishes using the rules and guidelines of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

CLASS TIMES: Elementary (grades 1-6): Offered at two different times/locations:
Wednesday afternoons: 3:45-5:00 pm at St. John Evangelist
Members of either parish may choose either time.
Middle school classes (grades 7-8): Wednesday nights 7:00-8:00 pm at Blessed Trinity
Grades 9 & 10: Wednesday nights 7:15-8:30 pm at St. John Evangelist.

DISCIPLINE & EXPECTATIONS

Our desire to share faith in a positive community environment. The basic expectations we have for students are responsibility, respect, and regard for safety. These expectations are shared with students at the beginning of the year, however, we greatly appreciate parents support. Calls will be made home regarding behavior when necessary.

POLICIES

The Faith Formation Program at our parishes is structured on the policies of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Below are the more pertinent policies:

Absentees: Attendance is expected at all sessions of our Religious Education (RE) program. If your child/children will be absent from class, we ask that you call the RE office to notify us. If we do not hear from you, a call will be made to your home to verify that your child is absent. High school students who miss more than two classes in a year will be given make up assignments for additional missed classes to make sure they are still on track with their sacramental preparation.

Arrival/Departure: Generally, we ask students not to be dropped off more than 5 minutes before class. If weather is bad, students will be allowed into the entrance area to wait until class time. No student is allowed in the classroom unless the catechist or another adult is present.

➤ The Lodge is available for grades 5-8 of both parishes on class days from 4:45- 6:45 pm. This offers a supervised location for middle school students to play games, watch movies, or do homework. Pizza and beverages are available at a small cost. Themed meals are offered on occasion by the generous contributions of volunteers. Students are walked over to class when the Lodge closes. There is a separate permission slip for the Lodge.

Cancellation: If the public schools are closed due to bad weather, there will be no RE classes. If bad weather develops after school, RE and YM staff will determine if classes are to be held that evening. Closings will be communicated through e-mail, local news channels' school/program delays and cancellations, and the parish Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/btsje>