

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH
35 Essex St.
LAWRENCE MA 01840

Class Schedule

Religious Education classes for **Kindergarten through Grade Eight** begin on the third Sunday of September and continue on three Sundays per month through April. (Refer to Schedule). Classes consist of formal instruction, sacrament preparation, and enrichment activities. Snacks are provided. Classes for **High School Confirmation** begin on the first Sunday of October and continue through March on the same Sundays as K-8 with some exceptions to be announced.

All classes are held at the Parish Center, 34 Common St.
from 10:15 to 11:45.

Language Concerns

Classes are conducted in English, but bilingual catechists are available as needed. Parent meetings are offered in English and Spanish, and written notices and parent letters are provided in both languages.

Parent Involvement

For children to be formed in their faith, they must not only learn about prayer and ritual, but they must experience it as well. This is accomplished through regular **Sunday Mass attendance and family prayer in the home**. Classes are conveniently scheduled between the 9:00 AM Mass in English and the 12:00 PM Mass in Spanish. Parents are the first teachers of their children. The purpose of the catechetical program is to assist parents in this task. Parents are welcome also to remain at the Parish Center during class time. Refreshments and reading material are provided.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

Parent Meetings: Parents must attend the scheduled parent meetings for each sacrament their child is receiving. Refer to the sacrament schedule.

Baptism for school aged children: Children who were not baptized as infants can be prepared for Baptism through special instruction during regular class time. Children are baptized in the spring. Those who are in grade two and above prepare also for first Communion in the following year.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Children in grade two and older prepare for this sacrament in the fall and early winter, and make their first Confession in March.

First Communion: Preparation continues throughout the second grade. Older children making first Communion are given special instruction in their grade level. First Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday in May at the 9:00 Mass. A two-year preparation is expected.

Confirmation: High School students prepare for Confirmation in their home parishes beginning in grade nine. Confirmation is celebrated at the end of the Sophomore year, usually in April. Older high school students are welcome to participate. The two year program at Corpus Christi consists of two classes per month, participation in Sunday Mass, a retreat experience, and service projects. This flexible program is designed to meet the needs of busy high school students.

RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) In certain circumstances it may be more appropriate for older children to receive the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist or Confirmation and Eucharist) together either at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday. A two-year preparation is required.

CURRICULUM AND TEXTS

Grades K through 8: Sadlier, *We Believe*

These books are not sent home, so that they may be reused each year. This helps keep annual expenses to a minimum. However, if a family requests it, they may borrow the books for the school year. Also those wishing to home-school are provided with books and support.

Confirmation for catholic High School students.

Students receive a copy of *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth-* (St. Mary Press, 2003). They use this over the two-year cycle of classes. They also receive a copy of *YOUCAT*, a catechism for teens and young adults which they keep for use in class as well as for future reference.

Safety and Chastity Programs

The Child Safety Program mandated by the Archdiocese is taught at each grade level (K-5). These are integrated into the lessons and are presented by the grade-level catechists. The *Created for Love* program is used in Grades 6, 7, and 8, and includes both safety lessons as well as the Church's teaching on chastity. These lessons are integrated into the regular lessons and are presented by catechists at their grade levels. Materials are available for parents to review.

REGISTRATION

Parents may register their children for classes at the first September class. Registration, however, is on-going throughout the year. Registration forms are sent home in August to those on last year's mailing list. Forms are available also at the parish office, at the doors of the church, and on our parish website. The annual fee should be paid at registration. However, no one is excluded for non-payment. Parents must provide copies of their children's birth and baptism records, if they are making first Sacraments

SACRAMENT PROGRAMS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Classes are held during regularly scheduled Religious Education Classes.

First Communion for Catholic School Students: Children in second grade and older prepare for the sacraments in their home parish. They register in the fall (third Sunday in September) at the first scheduled class and continue throughout the year.

Confirmation for Catholic High School Students: Students in their sophomore year or older may be Confirmed after one year of classes. They also register in the fall (fourth Sunday in September) at the first scheduled class for their age group.

SACRAMENTS FOR ADULTS

Adult Confirmation

Adults who have been baptized and received first communion may prepare for Confirmation with other adults during the school year. Registration is ongoing and sessions are held at the convenience of the group. Confirmation is celebrated in the spring. Sessions are offered in English and in Spanish. Please contact the Parish Office to register.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a process through which adults may be received into full communion with the Church. It is for the unbaptized who wish to explore the Catholic faith. It is also for those who were baptized but did not receive first communion or confirmation. These sessions are also offered in English and Spanish. Please contact the Parish Office to register.

For further information, call the Director of Religious Education, Mrs. Mary Crow, at 978-504-9308 (cell). For Spanish, call Mrs. Ivette Chakar at the Parish Office at 978-685-1711 during office hours.