



Religious Education at the Parish of St. Benedict

Family Journey

Learning about our faith is a life-long process. While some people are most comfortable with a more traditional learning process, others may be looking for something less conventional. Recognizing that the family is the domestic Church, Family Journey is a fun, engaging and thought-provoking program for parents and their children from Preschool through Grade 5. The program provides opportunities for parents and children to grow in their faith together.

The program consists of two to three sessions per month, on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 7:45 pm

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Rooted in the “self teaching” principles of Maria Montessori, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at the Parish of St. Benedict nurtures each child’s natural spirituality. The program, for ages 3 through school-age, uses geography materials to familiarize children with the life of Jesus and parables to nurture their desire to explore the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, as well as providing quiet time to reflect and be prayerful. Children begin to see Mass as a gift through their learning about the articles and the gestures of the Mass.

Level I – Wednesday’s 3:45 to 4:45 pm **Level II** – Monday or Wednesday 4 to 5:30 pm

Little Church

Little Church is a wonderful ministry for children to grow in their faith and prepare them to listen in Liturgy. However, the additional bonus with Little Church is the chance for parents to fully participate in the mass with fewer distractions. It is also an opportunity for the parent to volunteer in Liturgy such as Lector or Eucharistic Minister which would have been prohibitive with their preschooler in attendance. Little Church provides activities and hands-on projects for children related to the Gospel, that they hear in story format. They also do a variety of hands-on activities to help the child process the message of the Gospel. Little Church runs from September through May.

Little Church meets at St John Bosco Catholic School during the 9 am mass, following the schedule for Liturgy of the Word with Children.

Middle School

Jr. High School faith formation uses a group dynamic to build on the elementary sessions of Family Journey. The use of the Lectionary as prayer, large and small group discussions of Scripture and current topics, hands on activities along with social and service opportunities help this group to become involved in the Church and to develop their Catholic identity. Sessions are Tuesday evenings from 6:45-8 pm for students in grades six through eight. Parents are encouraged to become an active part of this ministry.

High School

Young people hunger for meaning in life. Through peer ministry we seek a connection and some recognition that they will become the future church. Gathering teens from both Catholic and Public schools will be an important part of developing friendships and building community in our parish life. Topics offered will vary from personal growth, to morality, deeper understanding of Scripture, prayer, liturgy and peace and justice. Opportunities will include social gatherings, retreats for spiritual growth, outreach, and immersion experiences throughout the year. These will be exciting times for our teens to be involved in their church and to have an environment of fellowship. Youth Ministry will be held on Sunday evenings following the 5 pm mass.

Fees

Little Church: \$25
All other programs: \$75 per child in parish, \$150 out of parish