

Saint Ambrose Parish

3107 63rd Avenue, Cheverly, MD 20785; (301) 773-9300



Religious Education Program

Registration Packet
2017-2018

Rev. Charles Cortinovis
Pastor

Alex Hernández
Director of Religious Education

To register:

You may register at the parish office Monday through Thursday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. You may also register after Mass on Sundays at the Ambrose to You desk in the church vestibule. The director of religious education is available on Tuesdays from 12:00pm to 5:00pm in the parish office, by appointment, by phone (301) 773-9300 and by e-mail: ambrosedre@gmail.com.

Registration deadline is Thursday August 31, 2017.

No registrations will be accepted after this date.

Orientation for parents and children will be September 9th at 4:45pm for the Saturday session and September 10th at 11:15am for the Sunday session. All must attend orientation. First day of class will be the following weekend.

Catechesis

At Saint Ambrose we offer sacramental preparation as well as CATECHESIS. Structured catechesis has as its end the growing of the faith of the one being catechized. This program presents a synthesis of the faith according to the age and developmental stage of the student. As the years go by, the faith is presented in a more profound way. That is why it is recommended that children receive catechesis from an early age and continue receiving catechesis even after having received the sacraments, especially First Communion.

At Saint Ambrose, we offer classes for 1ST through 8TH grade. We accept high school aged students seeking Confirmation.

Sacramental Preparation for Children:

Children's Catechumenate (RCIA): Children 7 year and older that haven't received Baptism receive sacramental preparation for 2 years at the end of which they may receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The first year of preparation, they receive content in accord with their regular school grade. The second year of preparation, they receive immediate sacramental prep. If the child is still of age, it is expected that he/she continue receiving catechesis. Must turn in a copy of the **birth certificate** with registration form.

First Reconciliation (Confession) and Communion: Preparation for these sacraments is 2 years starting in first grade. If the child starts in second grade or above, he/she still has to do 2 years of preparation. During the first year of preparation, they receive content in accord with their regular school grade. The second year of preparation, they receive immediate sacramental prep. It is expected that the child continue receiving catechesis after having receiving the sacraments. Must turn in a copy of the **baptism certificate** with registration form.

Confirmation: Preparation for this sacrament takes 2 years starting in 7th grade. If the candidate begins the program in 8th grade or above, he/she must still do 2 years of preparation. In the first year they will receive the content for 7th grade, about Jesus Our Savior. In the second year, they will receive immediate preparation for the sacrament. Must turn in a copy of the **baptism certificate** with registration form.

Requirements:

- All those in sacramental preparation must fulfill the requirements of the program in terms of content and participate in the retreats, meetings and events proper of each stage of preparation.
- Parents must also fulfil the requirements of the program and attend the meetings, formation sessions and events proper of each stage of preparation. Formation of children must take place, primarily, in the home and the intention of this program is to extend the tools necessary for that to take place in collaboration with the parents, pastor and formation team. To this end, we will offer 5 sessions throughout the year for the parents of those in sacramental preparation.

Classroom Assignments: Children are assigned according to their school grade. Some classrooms have more than grade depending on catechist availability and children registered in the program.

Times:

- Saturdays 4:45pm to 6:15pm – in Spanish/bilingual
- Sundays 11:15am to 12:15pm – in English

Cost:

- \$60 for 1 child
- \$100 for 2 children
- \$140 for 3 or more children
- \$25 for those in second year of sacrament prep
- Other costs proper of each stage of sacramental prep. (Confirmation retreat, robe, etc.)

* Total balance must be paid at time of registration.

* No one will be excluded for inability to pay. If unable to pay, you must speak with the director to request a partial or full waiver. Otherwise, full payment is expected.

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Volunteers: Every year we need volunteers for the different functions of the program. Please speak with the director if you'd like to help. Fee is lowered for children of volunteers.

Curriculum: At St. Ambrose we implement *Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts* from Loyola Press. The program is based on a spiral curriculum that integrates the fundamental themes of the Catechism of the Catholic Church with Scripture and Catholic Social Teachings. As children are introduced to and revisit concepts and vocabulary from one year to the next, their knowledge and experience both broaden and deepen. This program provides lessons in the faith and delivers those lessons through experiential activities that encourage lifelong practice.

Arrival: To prevent security issues doors are closed at 4:50pm for the Saturday session and 11:20am for the Sunday session. This also helps foster punctuality and minimizes distraction to maximize learning.

Attendance: Only 3 Absences are permitted. After 3 absences, you will need to speak with the director about continuity in the program, especially for those in sacramental prep. It is expected that you touch base with the catechist about missed material and how to catch up at home.

Drop-off and Pick-up: Parents must drop off their children in the classrooms. Grades 1 – 5 must be signed out.

Calendar: It is expected that parents follow the program calendar.

Discipline:

- No electronic devices are permitted to be used during class. They may be confiscated and will be returned to the parents.
- Intentionally damaging or taking other's property, especially St. Ambrose School's, will result in disciplinary measures.
- Respect for others, especially for catechists and their instructions is expected.

Communication: Various forms of communication will be used including pre-recorded voice messages, text messages, e-mails through the School Messenger system. Written reminders may also be occasionally sent home.

Cancellations Due to Weather: We follow the Prince George's County Public School's Policy for Inclement weather. A School Messenger message will be sent indicating whether classes are cancelled or not.