

# St. Cecilia Faith Formation Programs

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The mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is to build a fervent community of intentional and dedicated missionary disciples of the Risen Lord and steadfast stewards of God's creation who seek to become saints.

To further this mission, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is committed to implementing the:

## **Four Pillars of Discipleship and Stewardship**

- **HOSPITALITY** – invite people proactively to join us in prayer, especially Sunday Mass.
- **PRAYER** - attend mass each weekend and on the Holy Days of Obligation.
- **FORMATION** - attend youth and adult faith formation classes.
- **SERVICE** – serve each other, especially those in need, by practicing charity and justice.

## Formation Programs

The faithful of all ages are urged throughout their lives to study the Bible in light of the Catholic faith, to learn the teachings of the Catholic faith through ongoing formation and education, and foster those means which the Church uses to make the faith known and fervently practiced, e.g., Catholic media, lay retreats for men and women, confession of sins in the Sacrament of Penance, and frequent visits to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, whether exposed for adoration or reserved in the tabernacle.

Religious education is a personal obligation that does not end with the reception of the sacraments, but continues throughout adulthood. Therefore, we offer the following programs for adults:

- ❖ **ADULT STUDIES** – Weekly studies on various topics.
- ❖ **RENEW** – Weekly discussion on the upcoming Sunday Gospel.
- ❖ **CHURCH MISSION** – Annual mission for the parish.
- ❖ **CRHP** – Christ Renews His Parish – a personal and parish spiritual renewal process.
- ❖ **RCIA** – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – for adults interested in joining the church.

Parents are the first and foremost teachers of their children. Through the programs below, we hope to partner with you in teaching your children to become dedicated missionary disciples.

- ❖ **Sacramental Preparation** – for Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation & Eucharist.
- ❖ **Parish School of Religion** – Weekly religious training (grades Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade).
- ❖ **Youth Group** – Bi-weekly social and religious training (grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade).
- ❖ **TOTUS TUUS** – Week-long summer “parish mission” program for youth (grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>).
- ❖ **Catholic Schools:**
  - **Saint John Neumann** – Elementary Education (grades Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade).
  - **Father McGivney High School** – Secondary Education (grades 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

The primary focus of all the catechetical programs at St. Cecilia is the formation for discipleship and stewardship as a way of life, with sacramental preparation seen as a step in this process, but not the end of the process.

Being a practicing Catholic must be taught as a way of life.

## Sacraments of 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation, Confirmation & 1<sup>st</sup> Communion

In the Diocese of Springfield, IL, the Sacraments of Christian Initiation are offered in the original sequence (Baptism, Confirmation and Communion) for children. (*Go to [restoredorder.dio.org](http://restoredorder.dio.org) for more information.*) All students from St. Cecilia will receive the sacraments together, regardless of where they attend school: parochial, public, or home.

- **First Reconciliation**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will prepare for and receive.
  - Students will receive this sacrament at St. Cecilia.
  
- **Confirmation & 1<sup>st</sup> Communion**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will prepare for and receive.
  - Students will receive these sacraments from the Bishop at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. (*Go to [dio.org/confirmation](http://dio.org/confirmation) for more information.*)

Parents are the primary teachers for their children. With this in mind, our Sacramental Preparation programs contain both **parent only** instruction and **parent / student** instruction.

*NOTE: Students attending parochial schools are not required to attend the parent / student instruction, as they will receive sacramental preparation from the parochial school.*

In order to participate in these preparation classes, students must:

- provide an official certificate of baptism,
- be a registered member of St. Cecilia,
- continue their classroom religious education program.

## Catholic Elementary & Secondary Schools

Children of the parish have the right and responsibility to attend their own parish's parochial school. The purpose of Catholic education is to provide an environment of academic excellence where students learn how to become committed disciples of Jesus Christ, to grow in holiness as stewards of God's creation, share in the Good news of Christ's love with others and invite them to join us in the Christian community of the Catholic Church.

- Elementary students from St. Cecilia parish attend St. John Neumann School in Maryville, IL.
  
- High School students have a choice of several Catholic High Schools in the area, with Fr. McGivney in Maryville, IL being the closest.

## PSR - Parish School of Religion

The mission of St. Cecilia Parish School of Religion (PSR) is to assist parents, as the first and primary educators of their children, in faith, moral and spiritual formation, by providing formal instruction in a classroom setting for students in grades pre-k through 8 who attend non-Catholic schools.

Parents are expected to actively participate in the PSR instruction by asking their child(ren) about their classes each Sunday and expanding on the lessons in their home throughout the week.

- **REGISTRATION:** Registration is typically held in early May for the PSR year beginning the next September. However, we accept registration any time.
- **CLASSES:** Sunday mornings @ 9:35 - 10:50 a.m. in the FLC from September to early May.
  - Materials will be provided to those parents who home school their child(ren).
- **DISMISSAL:** Please ensure the safety of our children by following these rules:
  - pre-k – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students must be picked up by an adult at their classroom.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may be picked up in the drive through line.
- **CANCELLATIONS:** Notification of PSR cancellation due to inclement weather will be via:
  - EMAIL: [faithformation@stcparish.org](mailto:faithformation@stcparish.org)
  - WEBSITE: [stcparish.org](http://stcparish.org)
- **ATTENDANCE:** It is expected that a child will miss ONLY for a most serious reason.
  - The Diocese requires the parent to **notify** the school concerning each absence.
  - Parents are expected to teach their student the lesson that they missed.
  - Students missing 15 or more classes will be detained in the same grade the next year.
- **DISCIPLINE:** Each student has a right to a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to learning.
  - Parents will be informed if a child is having discipline issues.
- **TESTING:** Testing is used to assess the effectiveness of our program.
  - Chapter and Unit assessments are used in classes when appropriate.
  - A Catholic Religious Education (ACRE) test is administered in grades 5 and 8.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Parents may contact teachers concerning their child at any time.
  - Folders are sent home after each class for the parent to review & write notes.
  - Teachers & staff will also utilize email and phone to communicate with parents.
  - General PSR information can be found weekly in the bulletin & on our website.
- **VISITING CLASSES:** Due to Covid-19 safety, no visitors are allowed.
- **SAFE ENVIRONMENT:** The Diocese requires PSR students to attend age-appropriate personal safety training sessions each school year unless they receive similar instruction in their academic schools.
  - ECUSD7 & SJN provide this instruction, so we do not teach it at St. Cecilia PSR.
  - If your child does not attend an ECUSD7 or SJN school, please indicate on your registration if you want your child to attend personal safety training during PSR.