Christian Formation Handout 26-27

Parish Address: 7307 40th avenue | Kenosha WI 53142

Contact

Pastor: Fr. Roman Stikel (262) 694-6018

Program Director: Wyatt Cupp (262) 925-4157 wcupp@stmarycatholic.org

Christian Formation Administrative Assistant:

9th Grade Catechist(s):

Aaron Lichtwalt | aaron.lichtwalt@gmail.com

10th Grade Catechist(s):

Rebecca Zimmermann | rlwinston@gmail.com

11th Grade Catechist(s):

Michelle Adler | dietcoke356@gmail.com

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Program Description

Chosen | The Journey toward Confirmation

Chosen *will lead your teen on a journey through the Catholic Faith in all its richness and vitality. Over the course of twenty-four engaging lessons, your son or daughter will not only learn about the Faith, but will be invited to experience a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, using a combination of videos, workbook material, and group discussions. The goal of the **Chosen** program is to win over the hearts of youth at this critical time in their lives and to keep them firmly planted in the faith community of the Church. **The program is about learning our Catholic Faith and teaching us more about growing our love for God and becoming Disciples of Christ.**

ALTARATION is also a part of the 9th Grade Program. Mass attendance is a vital part of your teen's journey to Confirmation and beyond and **ALTARATION** is an informative program about the Mass.

CONNECTED is also part of the 11th Grade Program. This video program focuses on Catholic Social Teachings.

Policies and Procedures

Mass attendance | Students are required to attend Mass and participate in the Liturgy each weekend. By attending and participating as a family in Eucharistic celebration, parents help guide their students to grow in his/her faith.

Scheduled Classes | Classes follow the 10:30am Mass on Sundays from 11:30am-12:45pm. Students are encouraged to attend the 10:30am Mass prior to the session start time and then go directly to the school. Classes will promptly begin at 11:30am.

Materials | **Teens are expected to be prepared for class by bringing their CHOSEN Workbook, Their Bible, and their willingness to listen and participate during class.** Bibles are handed out in 6th grade or the first year that a student begins High School Christian Formation. Teens receive their CHOSEN Workbook in the 9th Grade or as a new student to the High School Program in 10th or 11th grade. **The CHOSEN workbook is used for all three years of the High School program.** If the teen has not brought their workbook and/or Bible for two weeks in a row, they will be asked to repurchase them. The cost to replace a workbook is $21. The cost to replace a bible is $30.

Classroom Behavior | It is expected that all teens will conduct themselves as God would expect them to act. It is important to work together for the common good in creating an effective learning environment. All youth have the responsibility to engage in behavior that is in the best interest of themselves, their peers, and the catechist. Please remember that our catechists are volunteers. They deserve respect and cooperation. At the same time, each student deserves respect, understanding, and a classroom conductive to learning. Mutual respect is expected.

Program | Event Fees | One half of the total program fee is due upon registration, with the balance due by February of the following year. Special event fees are due upon registration. Families with special financial circumstances or needs should contact the Director. All students will have access to our faith formation program.

Permission Slip Policy | A yearly General Permission Slip should be filled out to cover any event taking place outside of the church campus. If the event is off church property, students are required to have this general permission slip to attend. General Permission Slip forms can be downloaded from our church website.

Group | Individual Pictures and Release of Phone Numbers | Throughout the program year, photographs of the youth participating in various events may be taken. Some of these photographs may be used in the bulletin, on fliers or bulletins boards, the parish website, or other media, etc. In addition, requests may be made from St. Mary committee chairpersons or other volunteers coordinators for the names and phone numbers of teens,

and families to help in many parish programs and/or events. Please be sure to fill this portion in on the registration form.

Class Cancellation | On Sundays when the weather is not safe for traveling, or if we must cancel classes for any reason, families will be informed via a ROBO call. When possible, a decision to cancel classes due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances will be made by 5:00pm the Saturday evening prior to classes. You must always use your best judgement. In the event that classes are not canceled, and you feel it is not safe to attend, please call your Director of Ministry to inform them that your student will not be at class. Your safety and the safety of your youth is always our primary concern.

Open Door | Parent Policy: Parents are invited to visit their student's class. If you wish to sit-in on a class, please let the Director and the catechist know one week prior to the beginning of the class you wish to attend.

Electronic Devices: Upon arriving on the building's grounds for any activity, whether it is regular religious class, retreats, or other youth activities, cell phones must be out of sight during this time unless the Catechist or event leaders asks that they be taken out.

Service Hours: Students are required to ear **ten (10)** hours of service during each of their three years in the program for a total of **thirty (30)** hours of service by the time they are Confirmed. Service hours can be in the categories of Family, Church, and Community.

Students are required to fill out an **Individual Service Project form** (found in classrooms, High School office and on our parish website) and turn it into the Chirstian Formation Office to have their hours recorded. Students are advised to turn in the form immediately after performing the service hours. **Without this form, service hours cannot be accurately logged**. Forms can be turned in via mail, email or before or after class by placing them in the "in bin" found in each classroom and outside the High School Office in the school. It is always a good idea to keep a copy for your records. Please send the form to the attention of the Christians Formation Administrative Assistant.

Attendance or Leaving Class Early: Attendance to all classes is expected. All Religious Education classes must be attended with serious family difficulties being the only exception. Exceptions should be discussed with the Director prior to missing class. No other activities – sports or leisure – should be viewed as more important. Youth learn their priorities from the example of adults. **Please contact the Program Director via email or phone if a student requires and early dismissal to any class**. Students must also bring a note stating the time they need to leave, and present it to their Catechist prior to class. IN the event that a class must be missed consult the make-up work section of this document.

Service Hours

As mentioned earlier in this document, students are required to earn ten (10) hours of service during each of their there year in the program for a total of thirty (30) hours of service by the time they are Confirmed. Service hours can be in the categories of Family, Church, and Community. Below are idea or examples of service hours.

- Attend Eucharistic Adoration | Spend some quiet time with Jesus | Fill out an individual service project form | Contact the office for more information
- Music | Do you sing in your High School Choir band or orchestra? Have you ever thought about becoming a Cantor? Call the parish music director, Miranda Farmer, at (262) 925-4159 for more information.
- Become a Greeter for one of our three weekend Masses | This can be done individually or as a family. Please contact the Parish Office at (262) 694-6018 for more information and/or to be placed on the Greeter Schedule. This is a great way to volunteer as a family!
- Became an Usher for one of our three weekend Masses | Please contact the parish office at (262) 694-6018 for more information and/or to be placed on the Schedule.
- Altar Serving | students in grades 4 and up are encouraged to become altar servers. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.
- College Boxes | Help pack college boxes for ST. Mary students at college | Fall 2026 | Date and Time TBD.
- Volunteer at your school are allowed.
- Events as they come up | Program Director will typically contact all families via email as needed. Watch for emails!
- Be creative! Try to make service hours a family event if possible. Think Family, Church, and Community! If you are unsure about an activity qualifying as service hours, please contact the Program Director.
- Shalom Center | aka Soup Kitchen | The first Thursday of every month, join us at the Shalom Center located at 4314 39th Avenue, Kenosha (enter at Door #4) from 4:00pm to 6:30pm. Students can earn service hours (parents/guardians are welcome) serving ready-made meals to Shalom Center clients and those in need form our community. The Shalom Center is the longest running meal program in the community, providing meals without missing a day since 1982! You can be a part of this great program. Watch for Sign Up Genius links via email.
- Giving Circle | Dates and times of this event will be available in November. Students can earn service hours by making Christmas a brighter time of the year for families

in need in the Kenosha Community. This can be an Individual event, done with a group of friends or by families. Volunteers choose to wrap already purchased gifts for families in need. Help will also be needed for setting up and take down. Watch for a sign-up genius link via email.

- Crossroads Care Center | Spend time participating in a variety of activities with Crossroad residents. This event will take place one Saturday a month, starting back up in January 2024. Watch for sign up genius via email.

How to complete make up work

Attendance to all scheduled classes is required, however, if a class is missed students are required to up their work. **Parents/Guardians, please let your student's catechist know (phone or email) if your student will not be attending class.**

- For **CHOSEN** Lessons | Make up assignments for the CHOSEN program consists of watching the videos online (a **CHOSEN** link for online access will be provided to all students in the program), and by completing the work in the workbook. The following pages should be completed and turned in (or reviewed by the student's catechist) for missed classes:
    - The Watch It page.
    - The Challenge of the Week | students are to choose to write (full paragraph) about one challenge of the week.
- For **MOVIE** | Students will be given access to the movie and will be asked to complete a list of discussion questions. The movie should be watched and the discussion questions should be completed and placed in the "turn in" bin or emailed to the Christian Formation Administrative Assistant.
- For **CONNECTED** | Students will be given access to CONNECTED Videos to complete in necessary work.
- **ALTARATION** | Students will be given access to ALTARATION videos to complete assignments from the workbook. Contact Administrative Assistant or Program Director.
- OTHER ABSENCES | Makeup work will be provided as needed.