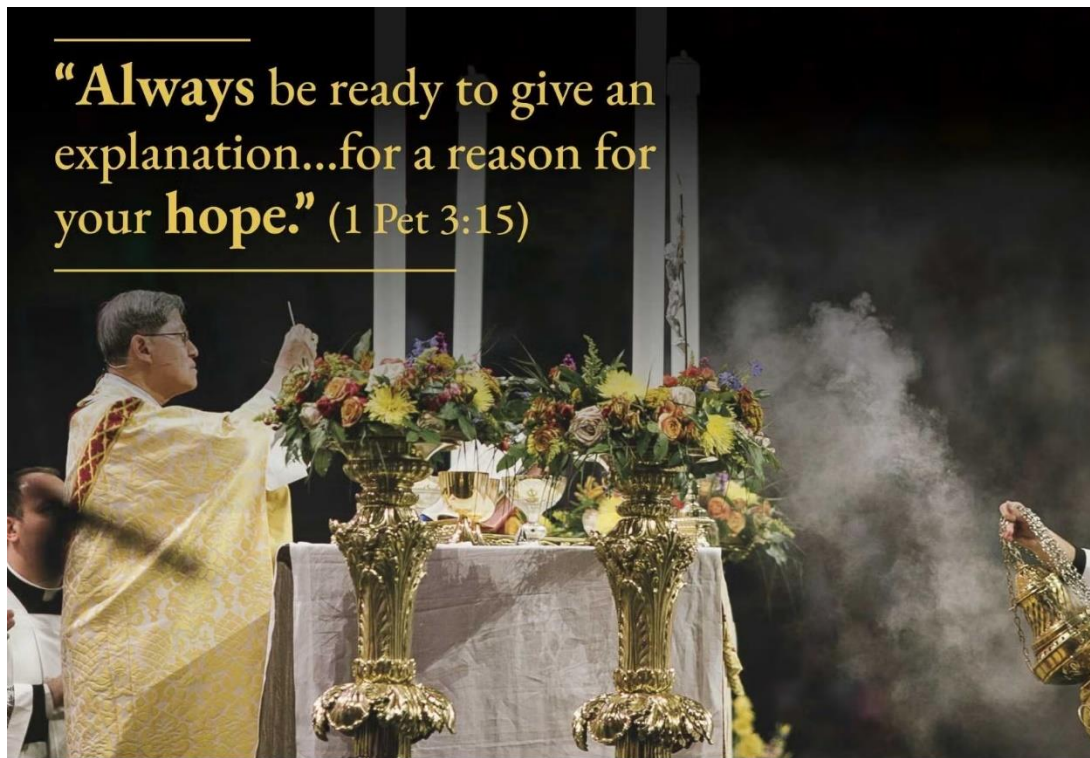


# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FAITH FORMATION HANDBOOK



**“Always be ready to give an explanation...for a reason for your **hope.**” (1 Pet 3:15)**



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops



Catechetical Sunday  
September 21, 2025

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**  
**Discipleship Formation**  
7043 Church Rd  
Ira, MI 48023  
586-725-1762

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## **A note from the Director of Faith Formation...**

The ministry of handing on faith to our young people and children is called catechesis. It is not only the responsibility of Pastors, Deacons, and catechists but is the duty and obligation of parents. When we look at the Rite of Baptism, our parents and godparents have accepted “the responsibility of training their children in the practice of the faith. It is their duty to bring them up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor.” Our parents have promised God and the Church to fulfill this responsibility. How wonderful it is to see our parents upholding their promise to God, Jesus and the Church!

Our theme this year is ***“Always be ready to give an explanation...for a reason for your hope” 1 Peter 3:15***

We will be learning about the roles that each person plays, by Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. This year’s theme invites all the baptized to devote themselves to a deeper study and practice of prayer, discipleship and evangelization. We do this for our own spiritual good and for the good of others.

Have you ever gone to a restaurant and experienced a fantastic meal or had an extremely awesome waiter or waitress? I bet on the way home, you couldn’t wait to tell your closest friend or family member about your awesome experience! What about Jesus? Have you ever had a prayer answered? Or what about a personal encounter with Jesus Christ Himself, that ah-ha un-explainable moment? (Some may call it a coincidence, others call it a God-incidence.) Have you ever felt the presence of the Holy Spirit? Have you ever shared a smile with someone? Have you ever prayed for someone who was ill? If you can say yes to any of the above, could you tell your closest friend or family member about your awesome experience? To summarize, do you get as excited about your faith as you do about good food or good service? We all should!

Jesus’ disciples frequently observed Him interrupting His journeys in order to spend long hours alone in prayer to His heavenly Father. He taught, He preached, He healed. His disciples were so moved that they asked Jesus to teach them how to do these wonderful things – and they were excited to do so! May we be moved this year to do the same as an essential element of our discipleship. May we use this upcoming year to draw closer to our Lord and to one another through a deeper and more faithful commitment.

Yours in Shared Ministry,

Tina Kovalcik  
Director of Faith Formation

## **THE OBJECT OF CATECHESIS: COMMUNION WITH JESUS**

The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ. GDC #80

The object of catechesis is communion with Jesus Christ. Catechesis leads people to enter the mystery of Christ, to encounter Him, and to discover for themselves and the meaning of their lives in Him. "At the heart of catechesis, we find a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son from the Father... full of grace and truth, who suffered and died for us and who now after rising, is living with us forever." NDC pg. 55

## **THE TASKS OF CATECHESIS:**

1. Promoting knowledge of the faith
2. Liturgical education
3. Moral formation
4. Teaching to pray
5. Educating for community life
6. Missionary initiation GDC 85-87

Catechesis encourages the disciples of Jesus to make their daily conduct a shining and convincing testimony to the Gospel. NDC pg. 61

### **MISSION STATEMENT FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH**

*Immaculate Conception Parish is a vital part of the Catholic Church's presence in the Anchor Bay area. For over 150 years, we have carried out the mission of the Church by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament. Through our Eucharistic worship, we strive to grow in the rich Tradition of our faith.*

*Our parish formation programs and school seek to foster lifelong faith formation for all. As faithful stewards, we offer our gifts for the good of the Church's mission and the needs of the less fortunate among us. In all things, we seek to provide a welcoming and caring atmosphere to all who come to us.*

## **FAITH FORMATION CURRICULUM**

At Immaculate Conception Parish ongoing and lifelong faith formation that leads to a living, conscious, and active faith are the goals of our faith formation programs. We realize that the entire body of Catholic doctrine is not conveyed in any single year but builds upon those that preceded and leads to what follows. With this in mind, our parish faith formation program provides lifelong learning opportunities that promote systematic, spiral and lectionary-based catechesis. Along with this style of formation, the memorization of Catholic truths, scripture, and prayers is also an important element of our parish programs.

### **THE DISCIPLES DEN**

Our young disciples in the making will dance, sing, play, and use their imagination as they hear Bible stories, meet heroes of our faith, and become familiar with God and Jesus. Disciples Den is a worship experience for children ages 3-5. Children must be potty trained. Disciples Den is available October through May, during our 10:00am Mass. Call the Faith Formation Office (586) 725-1762 to register.

### **KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8**

#### **CATECHETICAL FORMATION:**

This year, in grades K-6 and Confirmation Prep I, we will be using the Augustine Institute Series, *Word of Life*. This series integrates worship, mission, discipleship, evangelization and vocation with home resources that bring the entire parish together with the children on their faith journey. Confirmation Prep II will be using the Break Through Bible and CHOSEN with additional resources. Our updated curriculum focuses on an awakening of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the individual candidates as well as the Mission of the Church.

The Word of Life curriculum responds to the 2020 Directory for Catechesis and its call to help Christians “give a complete meaning to their existence, educating them in a mentality of faith in keeping with the Gospel” (Directory, no. 77). Responding to the needs of contemporary culture and modern man requires an “evangelizing catechesis.” This catechesis centers on an initial proclamation of the gospel message.

What makes Word of Life unique and impactful is its approach to the “formation of a Christian mentality” (Directory, no. 71) and how it creates “a coherent doctrinal vision that can be used as a reference in life” (Directory, no. 80). Word of Life unites a faithful articulation of the faith as it is presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church with, when necessary, esteemed sources in the living tradition of the Church to form a presentation of faith that is meaningful, practical, and intelligible for modern students.

#### **LEARNING OF CATHOLIC TEACHING:**

Another important aspect of formation is learning Catholic truths, teachings, and prayers. Our Church is modeled on Jesus’ invitation to “do this in memory of me.” With this in mind, we invite the young people in our program to learn in memory certain Scripture passages, prayers, and Catholic teachings applicable to their age level and abilities. The scripture and other Catholic doctrine to be memorized is included as part of your child’s text.

## **SACRAMENTS**

### **INFANT BAPTISM:**

In the sacrament of Baptism, Christians begin their life in Christ as members of the Church. As with all other sacraments, the proper and meaningful celebration of the sacrament depends on the intention and faith of those celebrating it. At Immaculate Conception, infant baptism is usually celebrated on designated Sundays after the 12:00pm liturgy. Preparation for infant baptism begins with and includes two required preparation sessions for the parents and godparents and completion of an informational form.

The role of godparents is to help their godchild lead a Catholic Christian life. Under Church directives, Catholic godparents, one male and one female, should be present at the baptism to profess their faith

Qualifications of a valid godparent are:

1. Must be at least 16 years old
2. Must be a member in good standing with the Catholic Church (not bound by any canonical penalties).
3. Must have received all three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion.
4. Is leading a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.
5. Cannot be the child's parent.
6. If married, have entered into a valid, sacramental marriage as determined by the Catholic Church.

### **FIRST RECONCILIATION**

First Reconciliation, a sacrament of healing, is an important part of a child's growth in the Catholic faith. Young people preparing for this sacrament must be baptized and have completed two formal years of religious instruction. Regular Mass attendance is required. Sessions for the Sacrament of Reconciliation begin in October. Our family-centered catechesis on First Reconciliation involves a Presentation of Candidates Ceremony, a Parent/Child Workshop, and the celebration of First Reconciliation.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

First Holy Communion, a sacrament of initiation, is another important step in the faith journey of young Catholic Christians. The preparation for the reception of First Holy Communion begins in February with a formal parent gathering. Young people preparing for this sacrament must be baptized, have completed two formal years of religious instruction, and have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Regular Mass attendance is required. Our family-centered catechesis on First Holy Communion also involves a Presentation of Candidates Ceremony, a Parent/Child Workshop, First Communion practice and the celebration of First Holy Communion.

### **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation, one of the three sacraments of initiation, focuses individual attention on the power of the Holy Spirit. Immaculate Conception has a formal two-year Confirmation program where the Middle School teens actively participate in thematic catechesis, prayer experiences, service activities, and retreats. Candidates are "sealed with the *Gifts* of the Holy Spirit" which prepares them to be witnesses of the Catholic faith in the world today.

## OLDER SACRAMENTAL CATECHESIS

Older sacramental catechesis is for any young member of our community who has been baptized Catholic, catechized but did not receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in the second grade. These older youths begin their faith formation year with their grade-level peers. Then in January, they begin a shared-time catechesis spending half of their weekly session with their grade-level peers and half in the older sacramental sessions. The young people in this program are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation first and then First Holy Communion.

## ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS – OCIA

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults welcomes adolescents and adults who have not been baptized (catechumens) or who have been baptized in another Christian tradition and would like to become Catholic, and/or those baptized Catholic but did not complete their full initiation into the Catholic Church. For information on OCIA please call the Faith Formation office.

## PARISH REGISTRATION

Faith Formation is open to all children, kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Registered families should have completed a parish registration form and be sharing their time, talent, and treasure with our faith community. A family's active participation in Sunday Mass is an essential element in their Catholic Christian formation. Registration forms are available on our parish website <https://www.iccatholic.org/new-parishioner-registration> or can be picked up at the Parish Office. All new families and returning families with a new student are asked to submit a copy of their child's current baptismal certificate.



## FAITH FORMATION POLICIES

### ANNUAL EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Medical Release Form: Each child is to have a current completed form on file in the Faith Formation Office.

A Release for Dispensing of Medication form **must** be on file if a child has to take or have on hand any medication/s during programming hours. This includes an Epi-pen or inhaler.

### ARRIVAL and DISMISSAL

Safety is a central part of our program. We ask that all parents come into the building at pick up time. If your child is to walk home, we ask that a signed parent letter be on file in the Faith Formation Office. We ask that ***all vehicles follow a 5-mile per hour speed limit*** while on parish grounds. ***Please do not park in the circular drive by the main entrance.*** This driveway is to remain open for emergency vehicles.

You may enter the building 15 minutes prior to the start of class and 15 minutes prior to dismissal.

### **Kindergarten – Grade 6**

Students are to be dropped off to the multi-purpose room no earlier than 15 minutes before class begins. At dismissal, students will be released to their parent from their classrooms.

### **Grades 7 & 8**

Students are to be dropped off to their classrooms no earlier than 15 minutes before class begins. At dismissal, students are asked to **wait inside the building** until their parent arrives.

## **ATTENDANCE**

To ensure continued quality formation for your child and the other children in Faith Formation, please have your child arrive on time and stay in class for the entire session. Due to the Confirmation preparation content, students in grades 7 & 8 (Confirmation Prep I & II) are allowed two missed classes. If there are more than two absences, students are expected to attend a make-up session as soon as possible. If a child is to be absent, please notify the Faith Formation office before class begins.

## **BACKGROUND CHECKS**

The Archdiocese of Detroit and the USCCB (United States Catholic Conference of Bishops) mandates that a criminal history background check be conducted for all church personnel and volunteers working in any parish capacity who have unsupervised contact with a child, the elderly, or persons with disabilities. In compliance with this directive, all adult volunteers must complete and pass a background check. This will be verified annually. In addition, have read the **Code of Pastoral Conduct for Volunteers** and must also attend a 3-hour ***Protecting God's Children*** workshop to learn of the warning signs of inappropriate relationships with children, so they can identify potential abuse before it happens. Parishes throughout the Archdiocese will be offering a ***Protecting God's Children workshop***. Please go online to [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org) or click on the QR Code below to check dates, locations and availability. You will need to register online. This workshop is free.



## **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

Because your child is living out the commandments and beatitudes, mutual respect for others and care for the property and equipment will be expected behavior. If an incident of disrespect or misuse of property occurs, the catechists will inform the director who will inform the parent/guardian. Very few problems have occurred in the past, but if a problem does arise that is not resolved after parent/guardian contact, the parent/guardian will be asked to either attend formation weekly with the child or instruct their child at home.

## CANCELLATIONS AND WEATHER EMERGENCIES

Parents will be notified by email, and/or phone call IF we need to cancel.

## CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse is a serious concern. Our staff has a moral and legal responsibility to comply with the law to ensure the welfare of a child. If a member of the faith formation staff believes there is suspected abuse, that person will inform the Director who will then notify the Pastor. Pursuant to state law, we are required to report such and follow diocesan policy.

## COMMUNICATION

The continued success and growth of any faith formation program depends a great deal on feedback from parents and participants. Comments and suggestions are encouraged and welcomed. Any correspondence to this effect should be sent to the Director.

All general information can be found in this Faith Formation Handbook. For specific information concerning events, sacraments, agendas, field trips, and up-dates, please refer to the weekly Spotlight. The parish bulletin is available on our website: <https://parishesonline.com/organization/immaculate-conception-church-48023>



## EARLY DISMISSALS

In the event of early dismissal, each household will be contacted with information pertinent to the situation. Children will stay in the designated “safe” place until a parent arrives. **Please Note:** For the safety of your children, if your child is to be picked up or driven home by anyone other than his/her designated ride, he/she will need to produce a signed note of permission.

## EARLY RELEASE

Parents will need to come to the Faith Formation Office to sign out their child.

## EVALUATION REPORTS

Once a year we will send home an evaluation of your child’s progress. Evaluations are intended to help you as the parent know the strengths and weaknesses of the moral and spiritual development of your child.

## 2025-2026 FEES:

### **Early Registration Fees** (before Aug. 15)

One Child \$110  
Two Children \$215  
Three Children \$260  
Four Children \$330

### **Regular Registration** (after Aug. 16)

One Child \$120  
Two Children \$235  
Three Children \$290  
Four Children \$370



We ask that all fees be paid at the time of registration. All catechists have the option of waiving the tuition fee for their immediate family. Tuition Assistance and special payment arrangements should be referred to the Director who will work with each family on an individual basis. A book and material fee of \$40 per student is non-refundable if the child withdraws from the program after the start date.

## **FIRE SAFETY and DISASTER PREPARATION**

Safety route instructions, procedures and guidelines are reviewed and practiced at least twice a year.

## **OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**

Throughout the year, our Middle School youth will be invited to participate in field trips as part of their formation. For all off-campus activities drivers must have a background check and have attended Protecting God's Children Workshop. Also, special forms must be completed for both students and parent drivers. According to the Archdiocese of Detroit as stated in the ***Policies and Procedures Manual and D.R.E. Handbook***.

***All Drivers:*** must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age or older, and have a current, valid, and non-probationary license, current proof of insurance covering the AOD limits, and have available to show the designated administrator. **All drivers must submit to the designated administrator a completed and signed Volunteer Driver Information** form for each vehicle used. The driver will receive a copy of the approved itinerary including routes to be followed and a summary of responsibilities.

***All vehicles:*** Must be validly registered (with proof in writing) and have seatbelts/restraints for each passenger. As of March 2004, the minimal acceptable liability for privately owned vehicles is \$250,000.00/\$500,000.00 (with proof in writing).

### ***Students attending Off-Campus Activities:***

Must produce a completed and signed ***Field Trip Permission*** form by the date indicated on that form and before the day of the planned activity. No student will be allowed to take part in off-campus activities without submitting the completed, signed form. Under no circumstances may students or parents bring along non-enrolled "friends" to any off-campus activity or field trip.

***The contact person*** for each event or activity will be identified on the ***Field Trip Permission*** form. ***Registration or sign-up procedure for off-campus activities or field trips will go as follows:***

Pertinent forms (as named above) will be handed out or sent home to all participants. Description of the activity, times, contact person, deadlines, directions, and fees will be stated and explained on the ***Field Trip Permission*** form. As stated above, forms must be completed and signed in order for the student to participate or for the adult to drive. **All information/ forms/ permission slips will be retained for two-years by the Faith Formation Office.**

## **STAFF**

The catechists, assistants, and helpers are volunteers who wish to be a companion on your child's faith journey. They participate in the various areas of faith formation because they are convinced of its importance. They give freely of their time and talent to support you in the lifelong mission of forming your children into the image and likeness of Christ. They deserve your utmost respect, consideration, and support at all times. If you have any questions or concerns about our parish program or its volunteers, please feel free to contact our Director, Tina Kovalcik at (586) 725-1762 or [kovalcik@iccatholic.org](mailto:kovalcik@iccatholic.org).

## **TOYS/GAMES/PERSONAL ITEMS**

We ask **that no personal items, toys, stuffed animals, electronic devices**, be brought to class. All cell phones should be put away during class.

## **PRAYERS EXPECTATIONS**

KINDERGARTEN – Sign of the Cross, Angel of God, Night Prayer, Morning Prayer, and Grace before Meals

Grade 1 – All of the above PLUS The Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

Grade 2 - All of the above PLUS the Act of Contrition, Prayer to St. Michael, the Divine Praises and be familiar with Adoration.

Grade 3 - All of the above PLUS the Apostles, Nicene Creed and Seven Sacraments

Grade 4 - All of the above PLUS the Hail, Holy Queen, Beatitudes, and Ten Commandments

Grade 5 - All of the above PLUS Corporal Works of Mercy, and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Grade 6 – All of the above PLUS the Books of the Bible

Grade 7 & 8 – All of the above PLUS – Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Mission of the Church, Holy Oils, Form & Matter for Confirmation.

## **PRAYERS**

**ACT OF CONTRITION** – My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior, Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

**ANGEL OF GOD (Prayer to One's Guardian Angel)** – Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

**APOSTLES' CREED** - I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

## **DIVINE PRAISES**

Blessed be God. Blessed be His Holy Name. Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man. Blessed be the Name of Jesus. Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart. Blessed be His Most Precious Blood. Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy. Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception. Blessed be her Glorious Assumption. Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother. Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse. Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.

**GLORY BE TO THE FATHER** – Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

**GRACE BEFORE MEALS** – Bless us O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**GRACE AFTER MEALS** - We give Thee thanks for all Thy gifts, Almighty God, who lives and reigns forever. Ame

**HAIL, HOLY QUEEN** – Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb,

Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

**HAIL MARY** – Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**MORNING PRAYER** – I give to you, my God, this day, all I do, think, and say.

**NICENE CREED** – I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from Heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**NIGHT PRAYER** – God be with me as I sleep. Bless those who love and care for me. I love you, dear God. I know you love me, too. Amen

**OUR FATHER (The Lord's Prayer)** - Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

#### **PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL**

Saint Michael Archangel, defend us in battle,  
be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil;  
may God rebuke him, we humbly pray;  
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host,  
by the power of God, cast into Hell  
Satan and all the evil spirits  
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT** – Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SIGN OF THE CROSS** – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

### **CHURCH TEACHINGS**

#### **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (Exodus 20 : 1-17, Deuteronomy 5 : 1-21)**

1. I am the Lord, your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

#### **THE BEATITUDES (Matthew 5: 3-11)**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are they who mourn; God will comfort them.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of the righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of God.

#### **CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY**

Feed the hungry.

Give drink to the thirsty.

Clothe the naked.

Shelter the homeless.

Visit the sick.

Visit the imprisoned.

Bury the dead.

#### **SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**

Help the sinner.

Teach the ignorant.

Counsel the doubtful.

Comfort the sorrowful.

Bear wrongs patiently.

Forgive injuries.

Pray for the living and the dead.

#### **HOLY DAYS of OBLIGATION**

Feast of Mary, Mother of God – January 1<sup>st</sup>

Ascension of Jesus – forty days after Easter Sunday

Pentecost – fifty days after Easter Sunday

Assumption of Mary – August 15<sup>th</sup>

Feast of All Saints – November 1<sup>st</sup>

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – December 8<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Day – December 25<sup>th</sup>

## **HOLY DAYS**

Sundays

Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation but a Holy Day of Invitation.

Epiphany – first Sunday after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**

**(Galatians 5:22-23)**

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness  
Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness,  
Self-Control

## **GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

**(Isaiah 11:2-3)**

Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge  
Courage, Right Judgment, Reverence, and  
Wonder & Awe

## **THE PRECEPTS**

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

### ***Prayer for Parents and Guardians***

Lord, Thank You for entrusting me with the gift of my children. As their first teacher of the faith, I pray that I may lead them to experience a personal encounter with Your Son, Jesus so that they may grow as His joyful disciples. Help me to always teach my children in truth, modeling Your love and mercy, so that they will be strong witnesses of the Gospel in their daily lives, at school, and on the playground.

Come, Holy Spirit, strengthen your gifts in me so that I may confidently embrace my important role in guiding [children's names] in your power and grace.

***Amen.***

-Archdiocese of Detroit