



FAITH FORMATION  
INFORMATION &  
REGISTRATION MATERIALS  
2023 - 2024

*"One who seeks the Church seeks Christ."*  
*-St. Ambrose*

*“In the first place, it is intended to stress that at the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, ‘the only Son from the Father...full of grace and truth.’”*

*Catechesi tradendae*  
*St. Pope John Paul II*

“As members of the living Christ, incorporated into Him and made like unto Him through baptism and through confirmation and the Eucharist, all the faithful are duty - bound to cooperate in the expansion and spreading out of His Body, to bring it to fullness as soon as may be.”  
Ad gentes, Vatican II

If we are Baptized, we are called to be missionaries!  
Christ needs people who are spreading the Gospel everywhere, especially here in our own Parish.

**Children, teens, and adults in our community need YOU to teach them about Christ and His Church.**

**Volunteer Opportunities and Teams:**

<b>Sunday Mornings:</b> <b>During Mass:</b> Preschool Catechist	<b>Sunday Evenings:</b> <b>Approximately 3 Times Monthly</b> EDGE Small Group Leaders EDGE Core Team Members	<b>Monday afternoons:</b> CGS Catechist CGS Childcare
<b>Between Masses:</b> Preschool Catechist Elementary Catechist (K-5) CGS Catechist RCIA Leadership Team	<b>Various Times:</b> Adult Formation Small Group Facilitators	<b>Wednesday Evenings:</b> Elementary Catechist (K-5)

Training will be available for all of these ministries!

*All volunteers are required to complete a Background Check, Code of Conduct and VIRTUS: Protecting God’s Children awareness training.*

**SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
FAITH FORMATION MISSION/VISION STATEMENT**

**Mission**  
As a vibrant Catholic community, we within Saint Ambrose Faith Formation.....

- Provide Life-long Spiritual Enrichment by:
- Deepening each person’s understanding of God’s unconditional love; the Catholic faith and Traditions; and Christian Values.
  - Providing vibrant formation opportunities for parishioners of all ages as well as strong Sacramental preparation and celebrations for our children, youth and adults.
  - Creating a safe, structured, and a genuinely welcoming Christian environment for each individual on their spiritual journey.
- Nurture Individual Growth by:
- Inviting, supporting and encouraging all to journey with and towards God.
  - Inspiring continual conversion of heart, mind and soul.
  - Inviting individuals to engage in prayer and worship experiences offered.
  - Developing Catholic leaders across all ages.
- Encourage Community Connection by:
- Encouraging the regular practice of all forms of prayer - both private and communal.
  - Actively engaging and involving families in the spiritual development of their children.
  - Bringing individuals together in small and large groups to learn, share and grow.
  - Encouraging individuals to recognize and share their time and abundant gifts with others.

**Core Messages:**

**Catholic First:** In a world of competing priorities and perceptions, we proudly live the truth of the Gospel and our Catholic traditions and teachings as we strive to inspire continual conversion of heart, mind and soul.

**Community:** Creating opportunities for relationships to grow through connections, respect and interdependence, we support individuals and families through education, spiritual formation and Sacramental celebration as we live and grow in faith together.

**Growing in faith via Education:** Keeping God at the center of all we are, we actively welcome all who desire to grow in their knowledge of the Catholic faith as we invite, support and encourage all to journey with and towards God.

**Service to Others:** The varied needs of our faithful inspire us to offer a variety of unique and meaningful ways to connect and come to know Jesus in their lives. We recognize the needs to share our time, talents, and abundant gifts with others as we are the hands of Jesus Christ as we live the gospel message within and beyond our community.

**Embracing Diversity:** Each and every person is a child of God, created in His image and likeness, deserving of respect and dignity. We find grace in our differences as we strive for meaningful conversation, understanding and growth in our parish community.

## FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH

We are dedicated to sharing Christ with children, middle schoolers, teens and adults throughout the Parish. For any type of catechesis to be successful, it must begin at home. We are here to support you and your family on your journey with Christ and His Church. *Your involvement in your child's formation is not only important, it is necessary.*



### Preschool & Elementary

- Peer groups meet in assigned classes and are held in a formal classroom setting.
- Classes will meet on a weekly/regular calendar schedule.
- Catechist training and support is essential and will be provided.

### Junior & Senior High - grades 6 thru 12

- Large Group Game, talk & prayer along with small group ministry opportunities will take place each week for grades 6-8.
- Small faith group meetings for Confirmation at Saint Ambrose throughout the year.
- Large group Confirmation Family events will be scheduled throughout the year and will be held at Saint Ambrose.
- Small Group Core Team training and support is essential and will be provided.

**Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist** (grade 2 or older) and **Confirmation:** (grades 9-12)

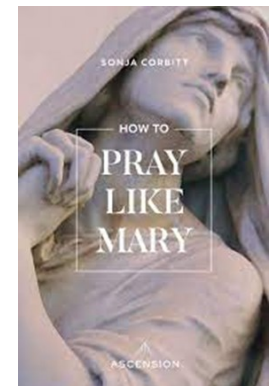
Sacraments are a community celebration for all youth in our parish, regardless of which school or faith formation program they participate in. Students need to register for the sacrament preparation at their parish of worship. Students must have actively participated in a Faith Formation program or Catholic day school the year prior to preparing for and receiving the sacraments.



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Saint Ambrose aims to help adults of all ages grow in their faith with the teachings of the Gospel and of the Holy Catholic Church. The study of scripture combined with the Catholic Church's rich traditions creates a great learning environment for all who want to learn more about Jesus Christ. We invite all men and women within the parish to grow in the faith through study, discussion, prayer, and service. Offerings include, but are not limited to:

- Adoration
- Book Club
- Men's and Women's Bible Study, speakers, and retreats
- Small Groups
- Family Faith Gatherings



Programs will be announced in the bulletin and in the parish website. Registration forms will be available prior to each event. Cost will vary with each event. Interested in a specific program or event? Please let us know!

"Train yourself for devotion, for, while physical training is of limited value, devotion is valuable in every respect, since it holds a promise of life both for the present and for the future." -1 Timothy 5: 7-8

**Contact:** Justin Kortuem



# RCIA

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

This age old method by which people came into the church was renewed by the bishops after the Second Vatican Council. This is the process by which adults ordinarily become fully-initiated Catholics. It is primarily a process, but one that is filled with rites, ceremonies and celebrations with prescribed words and focus. The RCIA focuses on Christian Initiation of Adults through the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation ordinarily celebrated in a single liturgy during the Easter Vigil.

#### BASIC CONCEPTS OF THE RCIA

*Age 18+*

- Conversion is a process
- Becoming Catholic is coming into a community of believers
- Sponsors play an integral part of the process
- The RCIA process takes place in an experience of the faith community
- Each stage of the process is ritually celebrated with special prayers and liturgical ceremony in the presence of the worshipping community

**Sessions at Saint Ambrose are held on Sunday mornings from 9:45 - 11:00 a.m.  
Late September to late April.**

No fees are charged

**Contact:** Nancy McGrew

### REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Register all members of your family on one registration form.
2. Return your completed registration form and payment as soon as possible for our planning purposes and your convenience.
3. Selections are made on a first come, first serve basis, so return forms early to ensure first choice of session.
4. You will receive a letter in September that will confirm your registration and provide you with more information about your selected ministries.

#### Director of Evangelization and Discipleship

Justin Kortuem 651-768-3020

jkortuem@saintambrosecatholic.org

#### CGS, First Sacraments, & Elementary Faith Formation

Kathleen Dierberger 651-768-3065

kdierberger@saintambrosecatholic.org

#### Middle School Edge and Youth Ministry

Brianna St. Amour 651-768-3021

bstamour@saintambrosecatholic.org

#### Confirmation and High School Youth Ministry

David Flynn 651-768-3022

dflynn@saintambrosecatholic.org

#### RCIA

Nancy McGrew 651-768-3023

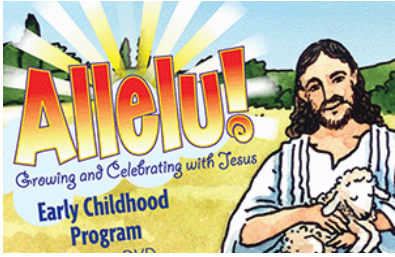
nmcgrew@saintambrosecatholic.org

#### Administrative Assistant

Kate Noreen 651-768-3015

knoreen@saintambrosecatholic.org

FAITH FORMATION TEAM



**Contact:** Courtney Hejna  
**Contact:** Kathleen Dierberger

# Preschool—Ages 3-5

The preschool program utilizes the “*Allelu ~ Growing and Celebrating with Jesus*” series published by Our Sunday Visitor. This program introduces our youngest members to God’s unconditional love for each of us. Lessons are Christ centered and age appropriate with bible stories, music, crafts, prayer, service opportunities and more.

**Who:** Ages 3 (potty trained and able to separate), 4, and 5 years old  
(not including Kindergarten) as of September 1, 2022

**When:** During the Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass or Sunday mornings 9:45-10:45 a.m.  
October-May

**Cost:** \$75.00



## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

### Level I: Ages 3-6

(potty trained and able to separate)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based method of sharing the beauty and knowledge of our Catholic faith, in which children encounter the love of the Good Shepherd through presentations on Scripture and liturgy, hands-on learning, and their personal work.

Catechesis takes place in the atrium, a special place of prayer, prepared and set for the children. The atrium is full of many works including the model altar, where the children hear the names of the holy items used at Mass and observe how to set the altar; the Nativity story, in which the children listen to a Gospel passage of the Lord’s birth and then can work with it themselves; a map of the Land of Israel, the special place God chose for his only son; and so much more!

Sundays from 9:35 am – 10:50 am (in between Masses)  
Mondays from 2:00 pm – 3:25 pm

*“I am the Good Shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me.”* -John 10:14

# SUMMER AT SAINT AMBROSE

*schedule*

YOUTH GROUP SAINTS GAME	JUNE 7
BOYS CANOE TRIP	JUNE 11-14
ENCOUNTER NIGHTS	JUNE 21
ADORATION, PRAISE AND	JULY 12
WORSHIP, GAMES AND	JULY 19
SNACKS OUTSIDE!	JULY 26
	AUGUST 2
	AUGUST 9
EXTREME FAITH CAMP	JUNE 24-30
STEUBENVILLE ROCHESTER	JULY 14-16
CATHOLIC FAMILY CAMP	AUGUST 24-27

SUMMER SMALL GROUPS 6-12:  
CONTACT [BSTAMOUR@SAINTAMBROSECATHOLIC.ORG](mailto:BSTAMOUR@SAINTAMBROSECATHOLIC.ORG)



# Summer Youth Ministry Opportunities



## Vacation Bible School:

**Who:** Children age 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**When:** June 10-14, 2024;  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

**What:** Weeklong experience for children in the Church to have fun, pray together, and learn about Jesus and His love for them.

**Also Needed:** Adults and teens grades 6-12 to lead groups of children through the week!



## Extreme Faith Camp

**Who:** Teens entering grades 7-9

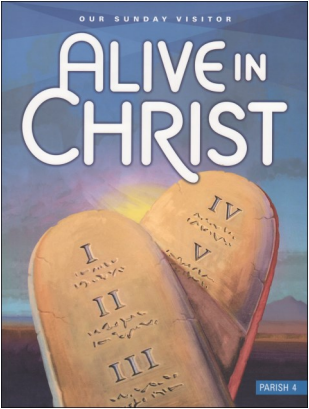
**When:** Week long camp in June or July

**What:** Archdiocesan Camp where middle school teens have the opportunity to encounter Christ in a new and unique way while forming lasting friendships and having fun!

**Also Needed:** Teens entering grades 10-post grad to serve as Prayer Team and Extreme Team (small group leaders)

Look for more information January 2024

**Contact:** Bri St. Amour



**Contact:** Kathleen Dierberger

## Elementary Faith Formation—Grades K-5

Our goal is to form the children of our parish in a general understanding of Christ and His Church. We use the Alive in Christ series, published by Our Sunday Visitor, supplemented with dynamic activities to capture the child’s attention, and help them hold onto the content they receive.

**Who:** Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

**When:** There are *two options* for Elementary Faith Formation classes:

**1. Sunday mornings: 9:45-10:45 a.m.**

- September - May

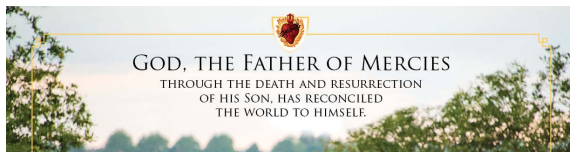
**- OR -**

**2. Wednesday evenings: 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

- September - May

***We will do our best to accommodate your preference for days. However, spaces will be filled based on your registration date.***

**Cost:** \$85.00



## RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION

**Sacraments are prepared for and celebrated within the faith community in which families worship regardless of which school or Faith Formation program they participate in.** Saint Ambrose sacramental preparation is both a classroom and family based program in which parent participation is required.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST REQUIREMENTS

- A full year in a Faith Formation program or Catholic school is **required the year prior to participating in any Sacramental Programs**.
- We begin the year with preparation for **First Reconciliation** followed by **First Eucharist** preparation in January.
- The **First Reconciliation** and **First Eucharist** programs are both a classroom and family based program in which parent participation is required.
- **Large group parent meetings and parent/child events** reinforce and enhance the lessons, and **are required** parts of each program for all participants. (One large group parent meeting and one retreat will be held for each sacrament.)
- Parents will be provided with materials to do sacrament preparation at home with their child for each sacrament.

#### **First Reconciliation begins in September**

A letter with information regarding registration and the sacrament preparation process will sent in August to all families who have children in grade 2 or older who have not participated in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Celebration of the sacrament will be held in early January.

#### **First Eucharist begins in January**

Parents whose children are in grade 2 or older who have not participated in the sacrament of Eucharist and have completed preparation/reception of their First Reconciliation, will begin preparation for First Eucharist in January. Parents will receive a letter with information regarding the First Eucharist sacrament process in December. Celebration of the sacrament is during the Easter season.

**Cost:** \$65.00

**Contact:** David Flynn

## Saint Ambrose Youth Ministry for Grades 9-12

**Youth Group Opportunities:**

### Youth Group

**Who:** Youth in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

**When:** Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**What:** An open and welcoming group of teens who want to grow in faith, have fun and build a strong Catholic community.

#### **Things we do:**

- Wacky activities
- Diving into our faith
- Worship and prayer in the Chapel





**Contact:** Bri St. Amour

## Saint Ambrose EDGE - Youth Ministry for Grades 6-8

### EDGE Nights:

Pre-Registration is required of students attending regularly!

EDGE aims to be a specific place in the Church for Middle Schoolers, so that they can have un-inhibited access to the following three things:

1. A dynamic and FUN experience where they recognize they are an integral part of their community, and a place they want to invite their friends to!
2. Comprehensive Catholic Catechesis that speaks to their life, and their experiences, and empowers them to share the Gospel.
3. Most importantly, an opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ through the rich traditions of prayer the Church provides for us.

Because of age-compression, middle schoolers are facing the struggles, temptations, and societal pressures that even five years ago were not true concerns until youth reached high school. **Middle schoolers are hungry for truth, and are fed so many lies. As a Church, it is our responsibility to offer this Truth they so badly desire.**

### EDGE Nights:

#### 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

**Sundays 6:30-8:00 p.m.** beginning in the Gym

September - May

**How Much:** \$85.00

### EDGE Special Events:

Once a month we offer another Middle School event, Extreme Faith Night, which is open to all middle schoolers in the parish, whether attending EDGE regularly or not. These may be fellowship events, retreats, or off campus events. Stay tuned for upcoming dates for the 2022-2023 school year!

@saintambrose\_edge



## CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

The Confirmation program is a one year process usually beginning the fall of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year with celebration of the sacrament in the spring. The program contains both candidate and parent learning events.

This program clearly presents the central and defining characteristics of Catholicism and invites opportunities for service, reflection, and parish involvement and support.

### WHO: GRADES 9 THROUGH 11 WHO SEEK TO BE CONFIRMED

#### Participation Requirements:

- A full year in a Faith Formation program or Catholic school is highly encouraged.
- Large group Confirmation Family events will be scheduled throughout the year and will be held at Saint Ambrose.
- Attend **one** Weekend Retreat prior to Confirmation.
- Attend all candidate/parent & sponsor events as scheduled throughout the year.

**Cost:** \$100.00

(Retreat Fee additional – more details at first parent/candidate inquiry meeting)

**Contact:** David Flynn