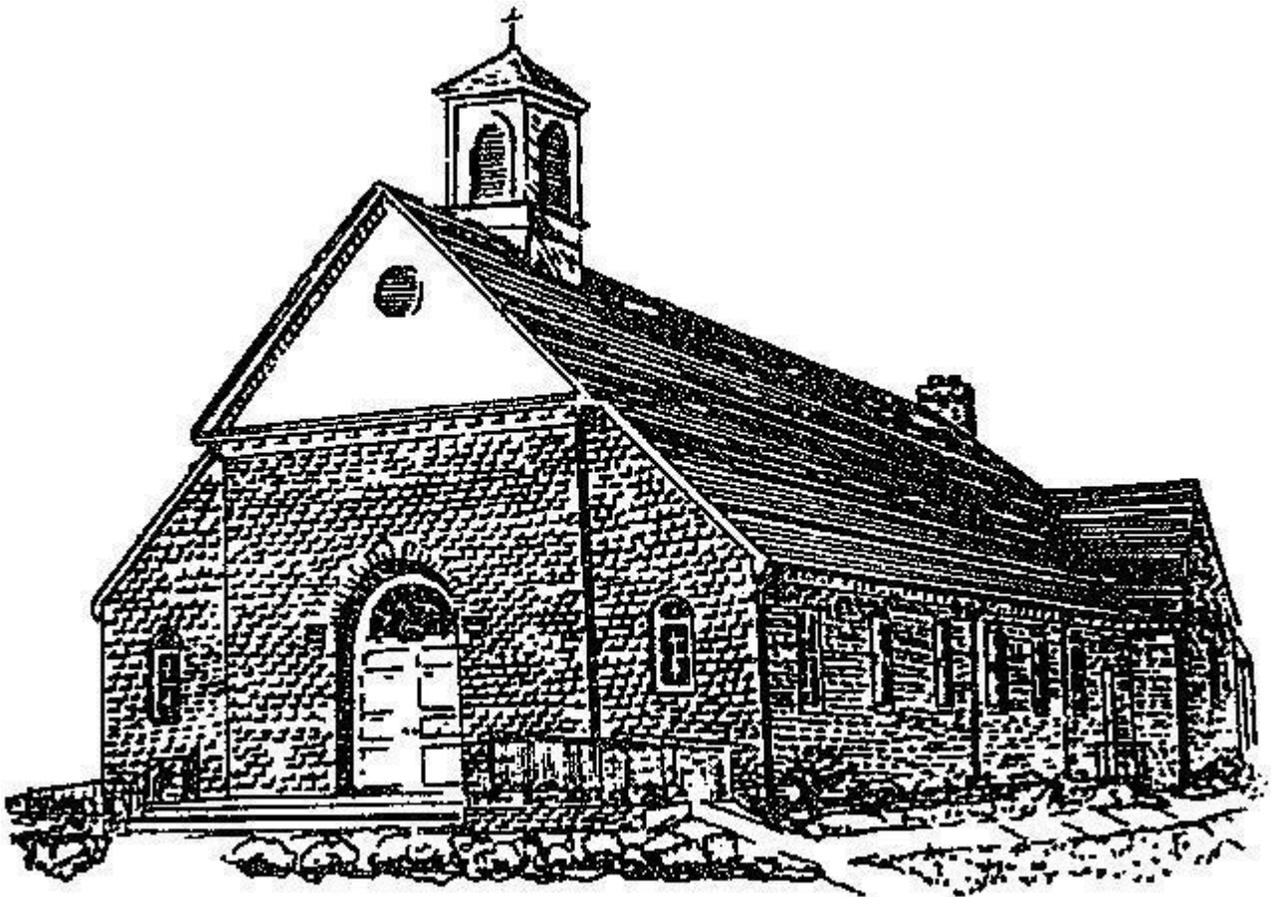


*St. George Catholic  
Church  
Youth Faith Formation  
Program*



**Reverend Paul D. Nguyen**

**Grades Preschool through Confirmation**

**SUNDAY**  
**9:30am – 10:45am**

Dear YFF Families;

Welcome to our Youth Faith Formation Program. We are excited once again to be given the privilege of assisting you in the most important job of raising your child in the Catholic faith and helping them to establish a life-long intimate relationship with our loving Father.

Each catechist volunteer spends many hours in preparing and teaching the faith. We are limited on the amount of actual time spent in teaching and will be requesting your assistance in helping your child memorize basic prayers and knowledge of our faith. We also are aware that each family has many things pulling on their time. It is very important that your child has regular attendance in YFF. When absences do occur, please contact your catechist for any make-up assignments.

As part of our program we have a monthly Children's Liturgy on the first Sunday of every month (except for January). The Sunday readings and family activities are sent home the week prior to the Children's Liturgy. In class, the students will discuss the readings and do an associated activity to extend and promote understanding. A class will be selected each month to serve the as greeters, readers and cantors. We encourage all families to attend this mass or allow their child to attend with their teacher and class. This mass is geared towards them. The mass draws us together as a parish family to celebrate around the table of the Lord. Through the celebration of this most important sacrament we are strengthened and sent forth to live our faith.

I look forward to working with you and your child in growing in faith and understanding.

God Bless,

Kim Browne  
Minister of Religious Education

# St. George Catholic Church

## Youth Faith Formation Program

Saint George Roman Catholic Church, a community of faith, nourishes the love of God with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through the teachings of Jesus Christ found in the sacred scriptures. We recognize our need to forgive and be forgiven. We strive to strengthen our relationship with God by committing ourselves to a life of Eucharistic celebration, Christian ministry, and hospitality to all of our parish family and community.

The St. George Youth Faith Formation Program teaches children to embrace the values of our Catholic Faith Community. We strive to instill in them a respect and love for others as well as themselves.

The spiritual care of children is our mutual responsibility. Thus, keeping with the clear teachings of Jesus Christ and of the Catholic Church, our parish asks that those who enroll their children in our religious education program make a firm declaration of their intention to support our Catholic Church Christian mission, including the following:

- We acknowledge that faith takes root in the life of a child only when his/her parents actively live the faith themselves. Thus, we affirm our faith in Christ Jesus and declare our intention to actively live that faith at St. George Church.
- We understand that participating in special sacramental programs (First Eucharist and Confirmation) requires our regular practice of the faith.
- We also understand and agree to follow the religious education policies explained in this booklet.

### PROGRAM CONTENT

We use the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. approved CHRIST OUR LIFE of FINDING GOD series by Loyola Press for grades K-7. Written by the Sisters of Notre Dame, CHRIST OUR LIFE and FINDING GOD both provide a thorough foundation of our Catholic faith. The series pays special attention to turning learned faith into a lived faith. The Christ Our Life website contains program content information and Family resources including Catholic Kids, Catholic Teens, Family Faith and Fun, Holidays and Special Celebrations and Prayer as a Family. [www.loyolapress.com/christ-our-life-religion-program](http://www.loyolapress.com/christ-our-life-religion-program)

Formation in Confirmation I(8<sup>th</sup>) and Confirmation II (9<sup>th</sup>) is accomplished using YOUCAT: Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, Cardinal Wuerl's Confirmation Video Series, and other supplementary materials.

*Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum Guide, Pre-K to 8* established by the Archdiocese of Washington is the basis for all lesson planning and a guide for use of the text. It states what students should be able to know, understand and do at each grade level.

A complete copy of the curriculum guide can be found in the office and at [www.adw.org](http://www.adw.org) under Education – Catechesis/Religious Education. The website also contains parent guides for each grade and a glossary for grade level terms.

## **FAITH KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT**

Each spring, students in grades 3 through 8 will participate in the Faith Knowledge Assessment provided by the Archdiocese of Washington. Feedback from this assessment provides information to guide catechists in determining both their progress in imparting basic knowledge of our faith and the progress of their students in attaining the standards specified in the curriculum. Please, contact the catechetical leader if you would like your child's individual results.

## **ADMISSION POLICY**

All students must pre-register each year. PLEASE NOTE: All families who register with the St. George Youth Faith Formation Program must also be registered members of this parish community.

NEW Students transferring from another parish's Religious Education Program or Catholic school must supply the following information when registering:

- A copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate
- Dates of all sacraments received
- A letter of prior Religious Education or Catholic school completion

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

All students preparing for sacraments, whether religious education, home schooling or Catholic school children must attend all retreats, interviews and rehearsals and meet all sacramental requirements..

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion-

- YFF Students attend class regularly with no more than 3 absences.
- Attend a parent/child retreat for each sacrament.
- Attend First Holy Communion Practice
- Display age appropriate readiness for receptions of the sacraments

Confirmation –

- YFF students attend classes regularly with no more than 3 absences
- Pass the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Assessments in the fall and spring and complete 15 service hours during their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year.
- Attend Confirmation entrance and exit interviews.
- Complete a saint paper and Letter of Intent to the Bishop.
- Complete 25 service hours in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.
- Pass the three Confirmation I Assessments with 80% or higher.
- Participate in the Living Stations and the Festival of the Saints.
- Attend the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Extended Confirmation Program.
- Attend all retreats.
- Provide a copy of their baptismal form and First Communion reception certificate, if not received at St. George Church.

Detailed information on Confirmation requirements are provided in the Confirmation Packet.

## PARENTS AND SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Parents of students preparing for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation are required to attend Parent Sacramental Preparation meetings. These dates are listed on the Religious Education calendar. Attendance at all sacramental meetings is mandatory. We also supply a parent/child retreat for both First Reconciliation and First Communion. Please refer to the calendar for dates and times.

## FINANCIAL POLICIES

The annual fee is \$40 for one student and \$70 for a family. If a child in the family is in a sacramental year (2<sup>nd</sup>) an additional fee of \$25\* will be charged.

***Families experiencing financial difficulties are asked to contact the religious education office to explain their situation and request a partial or full waiver. Such requests will be kept in strict confidence. No child will be denied religious instruction due to a financial situation.***

\*All children who are celebrating sacraments have an activity fee. This fee will help defray the cost of retreats, certificates, program booklets and other costs incurred with the celebration of the sacraments.

## BOOKS/ASSIGNMENTS

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure their children complete all work assigned by their Catechist. Please, work with your child on the memorization and understanding of their prayers and basic faith knowledge. A parent's guide of grade appropriate catechism is supplied to each child. We appreciate parents who remind their children to bring their completed assignments and books to each class. If a textbook is lost, the student will be required to purchase a new book. The fee for a replacement book is \$20.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Christian principles learned in the classroom and in the home make sense only if they are practiced regularly. ATTENDANCE AT MASS IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM. It is expected that students enrolled in the program be fully aware of their Sunday Mass and Holy Day obligation and fulfill that obligation faithfully by attending Mass with their family.

Parents are encouraged to see that their children attend Youth Faith Formation classes regularly during the year. When an absence from class is necessary, please contact your child's Catechist. Tardiness is disruptive to the class and we ask that every attempt be made to arrive for class on time. Also, we end classes at **10:45**. Please pick up your child(ren) promptly.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGIES

**On the first Sunday of each Monday, a Children's Liturgy is held at the 11:00 mass (check dates on the YFF calendar). We will walk all children to the church at 10:50. The children sit as a group in the first few pews. You are welcome to sit with your child's class or take your child to sit with you, if desired. If your child is not planning to attend the mass, please pick your child up promptly at 10:45.**

## CLASS CANCELLATIONS

If cancellations to our class schedule due to inclement weather or other emergencies need to be made, we will send out an email to parents and an announcement will be left on the church number. We encourage everyone to err on the side of safety.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

Every person is worthy of being treated with care and the respect befitting one made in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, classroom behavior needs to be characterized by genuine Christian care, mutual respect and honesty. Disruptive behavior prevents learning for the whole class and can be frustrating for the Catechist who is volunteering their time for the good of the students. Thus, at the beginning of the year, the teachers will be explaining the standard classroom policies and rules. Children are expected to adhere to these standards.

## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

***The Parish Minister of Religious Education is required by the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Child Protection Policy to report suspected or actual child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities. Catechists and parents who observe actual or suspected child abuse are encouraged to report the matter in confidence to their pastor or Minister of Religious Education immediately.***

Each fall, Safe Environment Training is provided to all students in accordance with the ADW Child Protection Policy. A parent information meeting will be held prior to these sessions. Lesson plans can be viewed in the religious education office. Please, consult the YFF calendar for date and time.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

To encourage student accomplishment and accountability for learning, students will be monitored and tested throughout the year in the areas of behavior, attendance, class participation, prayers and memorization, homework and grasp of content or knowledge of doctrine.

If a student does not satisfactorily meet the above, the Catechist will contact the parents and a conference will be held. A student who fails to meet the learning objectives will be required to work with a parent during the summer to complete all work and the student will be re-assessed in August or early September. If competency is achieved, the student will be promoted to the next level. Failure to complete all work will result in

the student repeating the level. Our purpose is not to fail, retain, or punish students, but rather to ensure that each child is receiving the knowledge necessary for them to become mature followers of Jesus Christ and active members of the Catholic Church. **Progress reports are distributed twice a year.**

## **STUDENT SAFETY**

In order to ensure the safety of all students before and after Religious Education classes, parental cooperation is necessary. Therefore, students must be dropped off and picked up at their classrooms by their parents or other duly assigned individual.

## **SERVICE**

The St. George Parish Community is encouraged to give of our time, talent and treasure. As part of our classroom instruction, it is important that we instruct our students so that they have a true understanding of stewardship. Each child will be given the opportunity to participate in Christian service projects. Service projects for grades K through 6 will be performed as a group during classroom time. Grades 7 and 8 will participate in both group and individual service projects.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

All parents will be provided with a calendar of activities and important date at the beginning of the school year. As needed, flyers will be distributed to all students during class. Refer to the message board in the hall Also, the church bulletin is an important vehicle of communication. It is distributed at all weekend masses.

Our church website, [www.saintgeorgeromancatholicchurch.org](http://www.saintgeorgeromancatholicchurch.org) contains forms and other important information on our religious education programs, including Youth Faith Formation and Vacation Bible School.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Religious Education Office: (301)994-0737 Sunday, 8:30am – 11:00am

Church office: (301)994-0607 Tues. – Fri. 10:00am-4:00pm

Email: [kim.browne@stgeorgercc.org](mailto:kim.browne@stgeorgercc.org) or (301)994-0638

Church website: <http://saintgeorgeromancatholicchurch.org>

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

Sacramental Preparation (RCIA) – Call the church office for information

Bible Studies – Tuesdays, 9:00am and Thursdays, 7:00pm

Courses available from Archdiocese of Washington:

<http://site.adw.org/education> Adult Faith Formation tab

<http://www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com/home.aspx?pagename=WashingtonDC>

Consult the church bulletin for additional adult formation sessions to be held monthly on Sunday mornings.