



Faith Formation (Education) Programs: Youngsters

Contacts can be reached via their associated rectory phone numbers shown.

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine - CCD

The mission of our Religious Education Programs is to deepen in our children their awareness and understanding of God's loving presence in their lives and to strengthen in them the Christian message of justice and love. Parishioners volunteer as religious educators and staff to assist parents in their roles as the primary religious educators of their children. (Toward that end, we also offer "homestudy CCD.")

Plans for CCD this year have been formed with Governor Wolf's Process to Reopen Pennsylvania and Bishop Zubik's Moving Forward Together plans. Our grouping will provide in-person Faith Formation classes and will also offer virtual sessions. Also, there will be a traditional homeschooling option for any family who has a child or children in grades 1-8. Of course, health data will be monitored to assess the implications to all Faith Formation programs; adjustments may need to be made throughout the year.

Members of the Faith Formation Health and Safety Development Team are Fr. John Skirtich, Fr. John Hissrich, Carol Vater, Jeff Conklin and Maryann Wellinger. They have looked carefully at the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health documents to establish the following policies:

- Maintenance will ensure the buildings are clean, disinfected, and safe for students.
- Faith Formation classrooms will only be used for CCD; rooms will be closed off to others.
- Hand sanitizer pumps will be in each room and can be used throughout the CCD session.
- Disinfectant wipes will be provided for each classroom for high touch surfaces.
- When possible, classroom windows will be opened and where available ceiling fans will be turned on.
- Water fountains will be covered.
- Supplies will not be shared.
- Both teachers and children will wear face coverings.
- Desks will be spaced 6 feet apart and class size will be limited.

CCD classes are offered in three of our churches in on different days of the week, at different times. These offerings provide our families the flexibility to select a program that best fits their personal schedules. Once you select a particular program to attend, however, please remain in that program throughout the school year.

Below are the timing and locations for our programs. You'll also find links to registration forms.

Mondays, 6:30 - 7:45 pm (St. Germaine) contact: Carol Vater – 412-835-8322

Tuesdays, 5:00 - 6:15 pm (Nativity) contact: Jeff Conklin – 412-655-3000

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:45 pm (St. Valentine) contact: Carol Vater – 412-835-8322

Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:45 pm (St. Germaine) contact: Jeff Conklin – 412-655-3000

[Click here for downloadable **Registration Forms**](#)
[CCD Calendars \(coming soon\)](#)



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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - CGS

This faith formation program is for children 3 years old to kindergarten age. In the atrium, they work with and reflect upon materials that revolve around the life of Christ, liturgical colors, geography, the altar and the Eucharist, the Gospels of the birth, passion and resurrection of Jesus, Advent prophecies, the parable of the Good Shepherd, the Kingdom parables, and Baptism. You can find details about CGS at <https://www.cgsusa.org/about/>

St. Germaine: Tuesdays 10:00-11:30am and 1:00-2:30pm

Sundays, 10:30 am

Carol Vater (412-835-4415 or 412-551-8984)

"Wee Believers"

Volunteers run a special program for young children during the Liturgy of the Word while their parents attend Sunday morning Mass. Details are at this link: <http://www.stvals.org/li>

St. Valentine: Sundays, 10:30 am, Lisa Thompson (412-835-4415)

Faith Formation (Education) Programs: Adults

Baptism Classes

Preparations for parents seeking to have their child baptized.

Nativity: Jeff Conklin (412-551-8984)

St. Germaine: Mary Beth Green (412-833-0661)

St. Gabriel: Carol Vater (412-551-8984)

St. Valentine: Carol Vater (412-835-4415)

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), is the process through which un-baptized adults or baptized adult Christians are formed in the teachings and practices of Catholicism and are then initiated into the Catholic Church. RCIA begins in early fall and includes periods of Inquiry, Catechumenate, Mystagogy and Enlightenment. It's marked by various rites (Acceptance/Welcoming, Sending/Election and the Minor Scrutinies) which usually occur at Sunday Mass. Full Initiation into the Catholic Church occurs at the Easter Vigil Mass through the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation.

Contact: Fr. John Skirtich (412-881-8115)