

# ST. JAMES FAITH FORMATION

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

**Grade 8:** You Are the Chosen People—Church History

**Grade 7:** This Is My Beloved Son—Jesus Christ

**Grade 6:** I Am Who Am—Old Testament

**Grade 5:** The Bread of Life—Sacraments & Worship

**Grade 4:** Blessed are the Poor—Beatitudes & Ten Commandments

**Grade 3:** Fishers of Men—Church & Holy Spirit

**Grade 2:** I Am the True Vine—Eucharist & Reconciliation

**Grade 1:** God Found Everything Good—God & Creator

**TRADITIONAL**—This K-8 program offers a traditional classroom approach to teaching the essentials of the faith. It is taught by a Catechist with the use of a textbook and bible. Our textbook series, Finding God, is based on a spiral curriculum that integrates the fundamental themes of the Catechism of the Catholic Church with Scripture and Catholic Social Teachings. As children are introduced to and revisit concepts and vocabulary from one year to the next, their knowledge and experience both broaden and deepen. This program provides lessons in the faith and delivers those lessons through experiential activities that encourage lifelong practice. These classes meet once a week for 1½ hours, on Mondays at 4:30 or 6:30 pm.

**GOOD SHEPHERD**—*The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* was begun in Rome over fifty years ago and is rooted in Bible, the Liturgy of the Church, and the educational principles (hands-on learning) of Maria Montessori. Level I is for 3-6 year olds; Level II is for grades 1-4, and Level III is for grades 5-8. These classes meet once a week for 1½ hours on Mondays at 4:30 pm. This approach to religious formation offers an opportunity for adults and children to share their faith life together. They meet in a specially prepared room called the atrium, the ancient name of the place near the church where early Christians prepared to enter more fully into the community of faith. In this atrium the children use simple, beautiful materials to meditate on the scriptures, the liturgy, and the sacraments. Order, repetition, and movement are some of the principles that allow the children to make both liturgical and scriptural components of our faith a part of their everyday life. Quietly pondering the infancy narratives, kingdom parables, geography of the holy land, and elements from liturgy can nurture the child's knowledge and love of God. It is the meeting of the mystery of God and the mystery of the child that gives the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd its life. More information about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd can be found on the internet at [www.cgsusa.org](http://www.cgsusa.org).

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**—These sessions are incorporated in both of the programs chosen above. Preparation for the sacraments requires that children have attended two consecutive years of prior faith formation before receiving a sacrament, either in a Catholic school or a parish faith formation program. Diocesan Guidelines require all students of the sacraments be taught by certified Catechists. Preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation happens in the fall of 3rd grade. Preparation for the sacrament of Eucharist (3rd grade) and Confirmation (8th grade) happens 2nd semester. **Sacramental preparation is a special time and should be given the time and emphasis that it deserves.**

**It is required that at least one parent attend each sacramental preparation meeting for which your child is enrolled. It is important you are aware of the proper format so that you can help and reinforce the child's preparation at home.**

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**—This process is for children over 7 who have not been baptized and/or for children older than 3rd grade who have not received their sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, or had any formal instruction. Please call the Director or email: [dre@stjameshighland.org](mailto:dre@stjameshighland.org) with any questions.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**—We had two levels of Youth Ministry. For high school students we had **Life Ministry** and for middle school students in grades 6-8 we had **KIC** (Kids in Christ). These groups are currently inactive. If you are interested in either of these ministries, please contact Cheryl Johnson at 924-4220.

**ADULT FORMATION**—The General Directory for Catechesis, which is a publication from the Vatican through the bishops, instructs us that Adult Faith Formation is to be a primary focus in each church. It is the ongoing formation that enables the adults to be a better example for the children as well as for others in the community. It is the basis for all other catechesis in the parish. We present different opportunities for Adult Formation throughout the year.

For more information contact: Cheryl Johnson, Director of Faith Formation, 924-4220

**A NOTE ABOUT OUR CATECHISTS**—All Catechists have completed a criminal background check and have completed or are in the process of completing the required Diocesan, "Protecting God's Children" program. They are also working towards or have attained Basic Formation status under the Diocesan policy on religious education certification. Catechists are instructed in such areas as theology, the Bible, discipline and teaching techniques.