

Saint Luke the Evangelist

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Discipleship is a lifelong journey.


Lifelong faith formation provides opportunities and experiences throughout the entire life span to strengthen our relationship with and knowledge of God. A commitment to lifelong faith formation serves to enhance our understanding of Scripture and of our Tradition. It sustains us in living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

As a reminder of last week's discussion, some principles that will guide our community in our process of renewing lifelong faith formation:

- The centrality of Sunday Liturgy as the “source and summit” of our lives as Christians
- The need to connect worship – learning – service
- The desire to be flexible for family schedules while at the same time providing quality religious education and excellent materials for students, parents and parishioners
- A need to dissociate our religious education programs from the “school system” and the “grade level mentality”
- A clear focus on the meaning of the Catholic experience

With our Parish focus on lifelong faith formation still in mind, today we begin at the beginning – faith formation programs for children and young adults.

Religious Education Registration meeting for parents on Sunday, September 10 after the 10 am Liturgy in the Church Hall. Program officially begins on September 17!



PRE-SCHOOL – GRADE 8 – Focus on the WORD and on the Mass

Beginning on September 10 children from preschool through grade 8 will dismissed during the 10 am Liturgy right after the opening prayer. They will go down into the Hall for their own age appropriate Liturgy of the Word, which focuses primarily on the Gospel reading of the day. Students will then participate in a lesson that ties the Gospel of the particular Sunday to a core teaching of the Church. Each student will receive a weekly booklet for use at home. Every family will also receive a resource book *What the Church Believes and Teaches* for home use. In addition, Pflaum, our publisher, offers free on-line resources for all ages at their website, www.pflaum.com

Why choose a liturgy-based program?

Each lesson in the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Faith Formation Program flows from the words of Jesus Christ in the Sunday Gospels. Children learn their faith – including instructions in doctrine, sacraments, commandments, and prayer – within the rhythms and seasons of the liturgical year, encouraging a growing participation in the life of the parish community.

**Free family resources are
available at
www.pflaum.com**

What grades does the program cover?

The Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Faith Formation program is available in five age-appropriate editions for preschool through eighth grade.

What are the components of the program?

The program consists of a faith formation handbook – *What the Church Believes and Teaches* – for each child, plus 32 weekly Gospel-based lessons. Together they provide a unique alternative to the traditional textbook. The handbook is also available in a bilingual edition, *Me fe católica*.

How do the handbook and weekly lessons work together?

The handbook leads children to understand the basics of the Catholic faith; the weekly lessons inspire them to seek out ways to practice their faith in their daily lives. A special section in the weekly guides integrates each lesson with doctrine in the handbook.

How does the program involve parents?

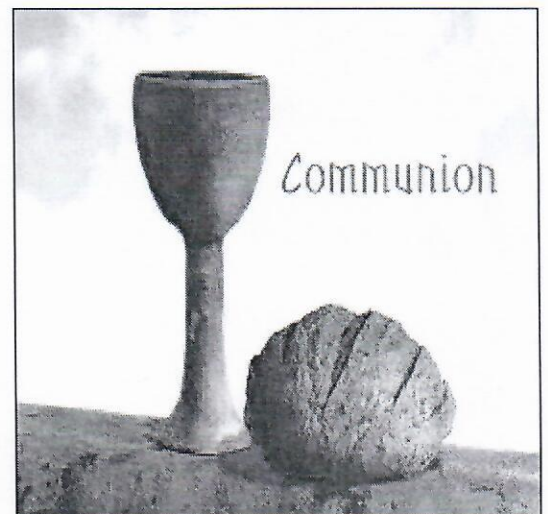
The take-home booklet format provides the most effective communication tool between the Parish, the student and the student's family. Every session reinforces the need for parents and children to actively participate in the Sunday Mass and the life of the Church. Free on-line resources are available for family use at www.pflaum.com.

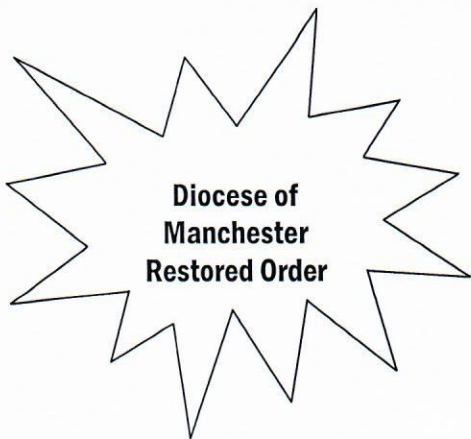
All the materials associated with the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies including the resource book *What the Church Believes and Teaches* have been found in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and certified for use in catechetical instruction by the US Bishops.

➔ SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION - focus on the worship life of the church and on the individual's faith response

FIRST RECONCILIATION PREPARATION: First Reconciliation preparation typically takes place in Grade 2, with the sacrament celebrated on the day of the retreat. Weekly attendance at the Sunday Liturgy, together with the completion of the home-based program engages children's hearts and minds through multiple prayer opportunities and unique interactive elements. Emphasis is on the beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and engages both children and families in this important time of preparation. A Sunday retreat experience for the entire family culminates with the celebration of the Sacrament.

FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION: First Eucharist preparation this year takes place in grade 2 (the Canon Law of the Church states that the minimum age for reception of the Eucharist is 7), with the reception of Eucharist for the first time celebrated in late spring. Eucharist will move with the celebration of Confirmation beginning next year (see below) Weekly attendance and completion of the sacramental curriculum, and attending a Sunday retreat with at least one parent is required. First Eucharist readies children to come to the Lord's Table with joy and reverence. The home-based curriculum explores the sacraments of initiation, liturgical seasons, and Eucharist-related Biblical stories.





CONFIRMATION & RESTORED ORDER: Our Diocese is restoring the order in which the Sacraments of Initiation are celebrated. Restored Order means returning the three sacraments of Christian initiation to the logical order in which they were designed to be celebrated: first Baptism, then Confirmation, then Eucharist. By placing Confirmation prior to the reception of First Eucharist it makes it easier to view the Eucharist as the summit of Christian initiation.

As of 2021, the standard age of Confirmation will be students in the third grade, and Confirmation will be celebrated at the same liturgy as First Eucharist. As a result, the preparation and reception of the sacraments of initiation will occur with Baptism in infancy, Confirmation and Eucharist in third grade. Although not a sacrament of initiation, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be received in the second grade.

The Sacrament schedule for our Parish for the year 2017/2018 will be as follows:

Visit www.catholicnh.org/parishes/formation/lifelong for more information on the Restored Order of Confirmation & Eucharist

Grade 2 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in January, 2018 and First Eucharist in May, 2018. Dates TBA

Grades 8, 9, and 10 will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in April, 2018. There will be Confirmation sessions after the 10 a.m. Mass with a retreat. Dates TBA



TEENS AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

With the Diocese moving to the restoration of the order of Confirmation before Eucharist, we have a tremendous new opportunity to engage teenagers and young adults in the life of our community and the wider Church. Beginning this fall, we will host sessions for youth and young adults after 10:00 am Liturgy that are geared specifically to the needs and interests of our young people. We welcome input from the Parish community - and willing volunteers to help expand a ministry to young people that will promote

- Guidance of the Holy Spirit discerned through prayer.
- Fidelity to the mission and teaching of the church.
- Ministry rooted in prayer and sacraments.
- Dignity and giftedness of each person.
- Inherent goodness, unique gifts and charisms of all young people.
- Baptism call of each person to discipleship, mission and holiness.
- Riches of diversity.
- Promotion of justice and peace.
- Responsible stewardship of our resources.
- Wisdom of shared leadership and collaboration