

# FLT (Religious Education) FAQ's

## WHY IS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALLED FLT?

- ✘ FLT stands for Families Learning Together. The parish and the family form a partnership for faith formation.
- ✘ The parish offers structure and opportunities to gather in celebration of faith and service. The family is where faith is lived.



## HOW CAN I REGISTER MY CHILD?

- ✘ It is best to register during the April/May registration days because it helps the office get a head start on ordering appropriate class materials and textbooks. If you are a registered parishioner, families registering for grades 1-5 will receive a registration form in the mail near Easter. Middle school registration may require a parent meeting. Notice will be sent by mail and **remind.com**.
- ✘ You will also save \$50 as the fee increases after May. The fee does not need to be paid at the time of registration. If you register after May, come into the FLT office during regular office hours (see FLT Home Page).
- ✘ Fill out a registration form, available on this website or in the FLT office.
- ✘ For fee information, call the FLT, Religious Education Office, 586-247-0098.
- ✘ If we do not have available class space when you register, you are invited to be part of the Home Study Program (parents share faith one-on-one with materials given to you) for the current school year. No one is ever turned away.

## WHERE ARE CLASSES HELD?

- ✘ All classes are held at the Fr. Larry Jackson Youth Center, which is attached to the parish building.

## WHAT IF MY CHILD CAN'T MAKE THE CLASS TIME SCHEDULED FOR HIM/HER?

- ✘ Class placement is dependent on volunteer catechists and space constraints as determined by the Fire Marshal. Students are placed on a first come, first served basis so early registration is highly recommended. The Home Study program (parents share faith one-on-one), is available if no convenient class time is available.

***Please remember, in order to offer classes, we are dependent on members of the parish community saying "yes" to the opportunity to share faith with the children of St. Michael.***

## HOW DO I BECOME A CATECHIST?

- ✘ If you are a faith-filled person, you love children, and you are willing to grow and learn more about our Catholic religion, you are invited to become a catechist. Call the FLT office for more information, 586-247-0098. Background checks are required.

## WHAT ARE SOME OTHER WAYS I CAN BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE FLT PROGRAM?

- ✘ there are many ways to be involved:
  - Building Supervisor
  - Substitute Catechist
  - Catechist Aide
  - Sunday school leader or aide
  - Children's Liturgy of the Word leader (CLW)
  - Family Service planner
  - Middle School activity planner
  - Education Commission member

## WHAT IS THE HOME STUDY PROGRAM?

- ✘ Many parents prefer to share faith with their children on a one-to-one basis. We are happy to provide you with the opportunity to do so. You attend one meeting in June or mid-October and receive your textbooks and other tips for accomplishing this. The textbook must be completed and returned before registering the following year. Children in Home Study are required to take part in all the large group activities for their grade level. Families in Home Study are required to do a Family Service Project together during the school year.

## IS THERE HOME STUDY DURING THE SUMMER?

- ✘ Yes, but you must register BEFORE JUNE 1 and attend the Home Study meeting in June.

## WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD IS ABSENT FROM CLASS DUE TO ILLNESS?

- ✘ Please call the catechist if your child is ill or has another important reason to miss class. S/he will tell you what you need to do to make up the missed material. If your child misses 2 or more classes in a row, the catechist will contact the FLT office and we will then call you regarding the absence.

## WHAT IS THE EXPECTED BEHAVIOR OF MY CHILD DURING CLASS?

- ✘ Demonstrate respect at all times for the catechist as well as the other students.
- ✘ Demonstrate respect for the environment.
- ✘ Follow the specific class rules.

## IS THERE AN FLT DISCIPLINE POLICY?

There is a close connection between discipline and personal growth. We expect the best from your children and encourage them to act in that spirit in this and every environment in which they find themselves. In the event of a problem, you will be contacted.

Since good behavior, cooperation, attention, and courtesy are expected from every child, the

- ✘ 1st offense will have the catechist speak privately with the child.
- ✘ 2nd offense the catechist will speak the Director of Religious Education and the parents will be notified.
- ✘ 3rd offense the Director of Religious Education, catechist, parents, and child will have a conference about the situation.

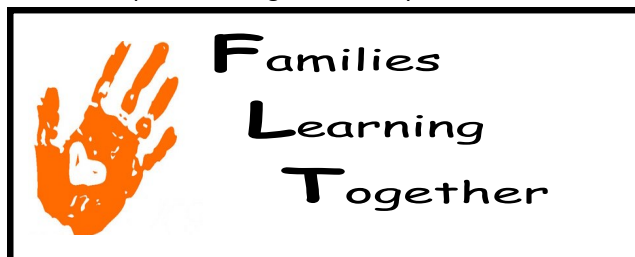
If the child continues to be disruptive, the FLT office will recommend that the parents work with the child on a one-to-one basis at home for the remainder of the year.

## WHAT IS THE CLASS SCHEDULE?

- ✘ Classes meet weekly October through April.
- ✘ The specific schedule is mailed home in September. There are monthly reminders sent home from class and in the Messenger. Text reminders are sent through *remind.com*. You may also call the FLT office, 586-247-0098.

## ARE THERE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES IN THE SUMMER?

We offer classes in the summer for middle school only. Students must be going in to grade 6 or above to qualify for summer classes. Registrations include a contract (an agreement of acceptance of requirements) which is signed during a required meeting. **YOU MUST BE REGISTERED IN THE PARISH BEFORE FEBRUARY 1 TO QUALIFY FOR THE SUMMER PROGRAM.** You must commit to attending all scheduled classes plus all workshops etc. during the school year.



## **WHAT DO I DO IF THERE IS INCLEMENT WEATHER?**

*Class cancellation will not be issued from the St. Michael FLT office. If possible, we will send a Remind text message.*

In general:

- ✘ If Utica and/or Chippewa Valley schools are cancelled or dismissed early due to weather, FLT classes are cancelled.
- ✘ If there is inclement weather, but school has not been cancelled or dismissed early, use your discretion regarding bringing your child to class.
- ✘ If classes are cancelled in one school for a specific building problem, FLT classes are not cancelled.

If a catechist is absent, we will make every effort to secure a guest teacher. If this is not possible, you will be notified via Remind that class will not meet.

**IN THE CASE OF CANCELLATION, CLASSES WILL NOT BE MADE UP. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO SHARE THE APPROPRIATE LESSON WITH YOUR CHILD. YOUR CHILD'S CATECHIST WILL GIVE YOU SPECIFIC INFORMATION.**

## **HOW DO I GET A NEW TEXT BOOK IF OURS IS LOST?**

- ✘ Contact the FLT office, 247-0098. You will be asked to pay for the new book.

## **WHEN IS FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATED?**

- ✘ Children prepare for First Eucharist, or First Communion, in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. First Communion is celebrated in May.

## **WHAT IS RECONCILIATION AND WHEN IS FIRST RECONCILIATION CELEBRATED?**

- ✘ Sometimes called the Sacrament of Penance or even Confession.
- ✘ We are invited to reflect on our lives and to commit to loving choices through the grace of this sacrament.
- ✘ Children celebrate Reconciliation for the first time in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, before First Communion.

## **WHEN IS CONFIRMATION CELEBRATED?**

- ✘ Confirmation preparation is after 7<sup>th</sup> grade and is celebrated by most students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **WHAT IF MY CHILD ISN'T BAPTIZED OR IS OLDER THAN 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE AND NEEDS TO PREPARE FOR EUCHARIST (FIRST COMMUNION) OR RECONCILIATION (PENANCE/CONFESSION)?**

- ✘ We have a program called SPOC (Sacrament Preparation for Older Children).
- ✘ Parents attend several one hour sessions with their child or children. Parents will be notified regarding dates and times of these sessions.
- ✘ There is home preparation for each class that is discussed and handed in at the parent/child sessions.
- ✘ Children are asked to be in a regular grade-level class during this sacrament preparation time.

## **WHY IS SERVICE EMPHASIZED?**

- ✘ "We are all challenged to preach the Gospel always and, if necessary, to use words." (St. Francis of Assisi)
- ✘ "What good is it to say you have faith, when you don't do anything to show that you really do have faith? Can that kind of faith save you?" (James 2:14)
- ✘ Faith is a verb. We have to do more than just talk about faith. We need to make our faith evident by the way we live...by our actions. Children learn by what they do, by what is lived in their homes, not by simply memorizing doctrine.
- ✘ Being part of the FLT partnership of faith means getting involved in service to others. Families are provided many opportunities for service.

## WHAT ABOUT SAFE ENVIRONMENTS?

In 2002 the archdiocese of Detroit instituted a "Safe Environments" program. The purpose of the program is the protection and safety of our children. It consists of:

- ✘ Classroom area door is locked at all times. Visitor's may be "buzzed" in at the discretion of the supervisor/director.
- ✘ windows in each classroom door
- ✘ building supervisors during class time
- ✘ emergency contact information
- ✘ special needs and medical information requests
- ✘ Parent/guardian signature on registration form
- ✘ dismissal release forms signed by parent/guardian
- ✘ background checks and code of conduct agreements for all adults working with children
- ✘ workshops for all catechists to help with recognition and prevention of potential abuse (Protecting God's Children)
- ✘ "Circle of Grace" presentations, during class time, for children.

*CIRCLE OF GRACE* is part of the Safe Environment Program

Out of concern for all God's people and in response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children*, we have a program for the safe environment education of children supported and mandated by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

This program is called *Circle of Grace*. It is meant to supplement and be integrated into the programs and curricula for the formation of children in our school programs. *Circle of Grace* aims to equip our children by arming them with essential knowledge and skills grounded in the richness of our faith. This program helps children to understand their own (and other's) dignity in mind, body, and spirit.

*Circle of Grace* is intended to help children understand the sacredness of who they are and how to seek help through their relationships with trusted adults. It is offered through our FLT classes yearly. Parents will be notified by letter regarding the specific dates for each grade level.

**For more information go to: [aodonline.org/safe environments](http://aodonline.org/safe%20environments)**