

## **What R.E. Program is a good fit for my child?**

### **Sacramental Preparation**

It is the process by which a child is prepared to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. The program covers 2 years of study, prayer and reflection for children as they get to know who Jesus is and why He came to save us. The beauty of the sacraments is revealed in creative ways. Children in the second year of the program participate in a mini-retreat with a parent. Additionally, families are encouraged to participate in a Family Discipleship Project.

### **Faith Formation**

Receiving First Holy Communion is NOT graduation from catechesis. Rather, being in communion with the Body of Christ is the open door to discover more about the Catholic faith, history and traditions. Youth in older elementary years and junior high are confronted with messages from the secular world which challenge the validity of their faith. Many pre-teens and teens are left wondering if there is a God even as they come to church with their families on Sunday. Faith Formation sessions provide a safe space to pray with their peers, study scripture and learn how to apply the Gospel message into their daily lives. The youth are encouraged to participate in fellowship activities and events to help them find a home within their church community.

### **Confirmation**

Confirmation means accepting responsibility for your faith and destiny. Childhood is a time when you're told what to do, and you react positively to reward and negatively to punishment. Adulthood, even young adulthood, means that you must do what's right on your own, not for the recognition or reward but merely because it's the right thing to do. The focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the apostles on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) and gave them courage to practice their faith. The Holy Spirit confirms Catholics during the Sacrament of Confirmation and gives them the same gifts and fruits.

Teens participate in scripture study, gathering sessions focused on Catholic Social Teachings, an online reflection program, field trips, and a yearly retreat. Additionally, Confirmation candidates are expected to complete a Discipleship project within the 2 years of preparation.

### **Rite of Christian Initiation & Acceptance ( YOUTH RCIA)**

Is the process by which a non-baptized person is entered into the spiritual life of the church.

\*Any non-baptized person over the age of 8 seeking the Sacraments of Initiation.

\*A baptized person between the ages of 13-17 who has NOT received Holy Communion or Confirmation.