



Cathedral of
Christ the King
Youth Programs

Catechesis Handbook

Welcome!

Do you ever stop to ask yourself, “How well am I passing on my faith?” “How am I doing in forming my children to become life-long disciples of Jesus Christ; disciples who love God with their whole heart, mind, and soul?” This is what it means to be a parent, to ask these questions and then work to answer them in the affirmative. We at Christ the King are here to support you in this critically important role. A lot of work has gone into making this handbook informative and make you aware of the expectations that are placed upon you and your children when you sign them up for CCD.

As you know, you are the primary teachers of your children in the ways of the faith. We at Christ the King are honored to be assisting you in this most important role. It’s easy to sometimes think that the Church is responsible to educate children in the faith. The truth is that at best, we can only support you in your role as their primary teacher of the faith. At your child’s baptism, you pledged before God to do your best to raise them in the ways of the faith. It makes no difference if you have your children in Catholic School or in CCD. We can and will help, but your children will only take their faith as seriously as you yourself take it and live it. Please know of our support for you. If there is ever anything that we can do to be of assistance, I am just a phone call away.

God bless you and your family!

Deacon Tim Weinmann (Director of Faith Formation)

The policies and procedures listed on the following pages are very important to our program. We believe that the success of the efforts of our teachers, coordinators and helpers will be dependent on how well these policies are followed and understood, especially by parents. We appreciate you taking the time to review them, and we ask that you complete and return the Parent Contract in the back of this handbook to your child’s teacher. Your cooperation and your prayers for a successful program will be most appreciated.



"Train up a child
in the way he should go:
And when he is old,
he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Cathedral of Christ the King Youth Programs Catechesis Handbook

Religious Education Staff	4
Student Stewardship Program	5
The CCD Program	6
Youth Ministry	8
Children's Liturgy of the Word	9
The RCIC Program	9
Vacation Bible School, Totus Tuus.....	10
Program for Students with Special Needs	11
Policies and Procedures	12
Sacramental Preparation and Policies	14
Parental Involvement	15
Confirmed Youth Volunteer Opportunities.....	16
Resources	16
Music Ministry.....	17
Parent Contract	

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

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Coordinator of Children's Catechesis

Karen Kirklandctkccd@cdlex.org

Youth Ministry Director

Rebecca Whitneyctkyouth@cdlex.org

RCIA for Children

Michele Ferguson.....mlfergy@twc.com

Our teachers are called to the ministry of educating your children about the Catholic faith. Guidance will be provided by the Director of Faith Formation, and the Coordinator of Children's Catechesis will oversee the program's policies and will provide supervision when needed. All teachers are Virtus trained and required to complete the Catechist Certification laid out by the Diocese, in cooperation with Aquinas College in Nashville. Your child's teacher will provide to you their contact information.

The program's curriculum will be approved by the Rector, Director of Faith Formation and the Coordinator of Children's Catechesis. In selecting the appropriate curriculum, we must follow the guidelines established by the Bishop and the Office of Religious Education of the Diocese of

Lexington. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops sets recommendations for approved texts that we must follow. We want to assure all parents who have children in our program that we are committed to teaching your child the essentials of our Catholic Faith: Spiritual Formation, Scripture, Liturgy and Sacraments, the Church's Nature, Purpose and History, Doctrine, Morality and Social Justice, and Catechetical Studies.

Please inform Karen Kirkland and your child's teacher of any special needs or circumstances that may affect the child in class including health and learning issues (i.e. allergies, reading difficulties, ADD, ADHD, etc.)

STUDENT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

What is Stewardship? Stewardship is a way of life. It is a way of living each day in gratitude for all the blessings that God has given to us. Sharing our gifts and returning them to God means giving generously of our time, talent and treasure. It is our responsibility to show our gratitude by giving back to Him the "first fruits."

The Step-by-Step Student Stewardship Program is designed to teach Christ the King students how to be good stewards of all the gifts God has given them. This is done in an age appropriate way through a different category of service for each grade level. Through the coordination of the teachers and catechists, different yearly projects are established for each grade level.

Parental involvement will be needed at various times throughout the year to assist with service projects and would be greatly appreciated. Please contact your child's teacher if you are able to help.

THE CCD PROGRAM

What Does CCD Mean?

CCD stands for Confraternity (n: a society devoted especially to a religious or charitable cause.) of Christian Doctrine. A “CCD” was established in 1562 at Rome to help with the education of Catholics in the faith. In modern times, it has come to mean a program of Catholic education for all parish children.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cathedral of Christ the King’s CCD program is to support parents as primary teachers of the faith in forming life-long disciples of Jesus Christ as members of the Roman Catholic Church. We seek to journey along-side children and their families so all can grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and learn to think with the mind and heart of the Church. Through the promotion of these teachings and values, a Catholic community is created where students are accepted, cherished, and challenged to walk and live as disciples who know that Jesus is truly Lord of their life and through His Grace, want to live accordingly.

Goals of the CCD Program

The Cathedral of Christ the King CCD Program exists to provide its students with an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ; an encounter that helps each child know they are loved personally by the God of the universe; to know God has a plan for their life; and to know that plan is something they need to seek out and act upon throughout their lives. Our goal is to teach the basic elements of the

faith but always in the context of their relationship with Jesus. This is accomplished when these goals are achieved:

- To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by providing a religious program based on Scripture, Tradition and the teaching magisterium of the Church.
- To teach by word and example that Jesus loves them in a personal way and wants to be in relationship with them.
- To encourage reception of the Sacraments by preparing....students to live a sacramental life and NOT just to receive the sacraments.
- To foster reverence for the Church and our Catholic Faith
- To foster growth in our faith community by providing valuable experiences of shared prayer and worship, empowering students in roles and full participation in the Mass, and having a focus on and express the importance of young people in our community.
- To encourage a spirit of charity by promoting positive Christian attitudes to one’s responsibility toward God, others and self
- To encourage students to be actively engaged and responsible for their faith formation
- To foster cooperation and communication among the parish community, religious education staff, parents and students
- CCD meets from 10:10 a.m. to 11:05 a.m. every Sunday during the school year. Middle School program meets Wednesdays after mass during the school year from 6:15p.m.-7:30p.m. High School program meets Sunday evenings after the Teen mass during the school year from 6:30p.m.-8:00p.m.

F.A.I.T.H. Guidelines

Our faith guidelines, originally developed and implemented at Christ the King School, provide a framework from which students begin to have an understanding of our Lord, which later provide the necessary tools to become a spiritually-grounded young adult.

These shared guidelines act as a gentle reminder to students, parents, educators and administrators to always find Christ in everything they do.

Find Christ in others

Accept responsibility

Inspire integrity and honesty

Treat other with dignity and respect

Honor God, yourself, and others

YOUTH MINISTRY

What is Youth Group at CTK?

The GOAL of our **High School Youth Group** is to create an environment in which teens can be led into relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church. It is centered on the Sunday Eucharist, beginning with the TEEN Mass and followed immediately by a high-school-only Youth Night from 6:30-8:00 pm. Pouring out from the teen Mass, the Youth Night is a place where teens can come to be challenged to live out their faith. We also offer a monthly in depth discipleship discussion group for the High School Leaders. This group is known as LEGOS-Leaders Evangelizing God's Outstanding Salvation! High School Youth Group meets in the Youth Ministry Room in the Christ the King School. Hope to see you there!

CTK's **Middle School Youth Group** meets on Wednesday nights following mass from 6:15-7:30 pm in the Youth Ministry Room. Youth Group is a place for middle school youth to come to explore faith in a fun environment. We break open the Word of God in creative ways. Middle school youth are not children, but they're not yet really adults, either. They have a unique perspective on life, and we want to be a part of that. We at Christ the King want the middle school youth to know the valuable role they play in the life of the Church. Above all, our goal is always to lead them to the person of Christ by sharing His truth and building relationships with them.

Youth Group is for all Students, public, private or home schooled!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these (Matthew 19:14)."

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) follows what Jesus has asked of us. During the school year at the 9:00 and 11:15 masses the children are invited by the celebrant to process into a special, sacred setting where they will participate in the Liturgy of the Word. Although this is a mirrored celebration of what is happening with the congregation, CLOW is geared for their little minds and hearts.

They learn the traditions and meaning behind our Catholic faith; they listen to the proclamation of the Gospel and share in a discussion designed especially for them. After the prayers of the faithful they process back into church and rejoin their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The purpose of adapting liturgy for the children is to lead them into full conscious and active participation in the liturgy of the parish.

THE RCIA for CHILDREN PROGRAM

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, adapted for children) is the Church's process for children, ages 7 and above, who have not been baptized or have been baptized in another faith and wish to become Catholic. If your child has not been baptized or your family wishes to enter the Church, this is the process for you! We start at the very beginning, so don't worry if your child doesn't have much background in religious education. We meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 -11:00 a.m. Interested parents should contact Deacon Tim Weinmann (266-9314) for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a specialized form of religious education which focuses on children. VBS is a week-long program of religious education which employs Bible stories, religious songs, arts and crafts, games, skits, or puppet shows which cater to elementary school-aged children. Vacation Bible School is intentionally designed to connect kids to God and introduce them to the person of Jesus Christ, create change in their hearts, and give them opportunities to share God's love with others. Our VBS program is offered at a minimal cost to those attending. All VBS workers are volunteers, and if you are interested in helping, please contact Karen Kirkland, our VBS Coordinator, at ctkccd@cdlex.org

Totus Tuus

Totus Tuus is a Latin phrase meaning “totally yours” and was the motto of the late, great Pope John Paul II. It signifies our desire to give ourselves entirely to Jesus Christ through the hands of our Blessed Mother Mary. Totus Tuus is a parish summer catechetical program for Catholic youth grades K-12. www.cathedralctk.org

PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

At the Cathedral of Christ the King, we recognize and affirm the uniqueness of each individual person. In doing so, we open our doors to the learner with special needs working in partnership with the learners' families to incorporate them into the Body of Christ through parish religious education, sacramental preparation, and all church activities for children. We strive to make our religious education programs accessible and appropriate to all persons and to address the individual and special needs of your children.

Parents of children with a special need should contact Karen Kirkland, Coordinator of Children's Catechesis, to discuss the particular need so that accommodations and modifications may be provided for your child. When appropriate, parents should bring a copy of the child's IEP (Individual Education Plan) to assist with proper planning.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Registration

To register your child for the CCD program, Youth Ministry or Vacation Bible School, forms may be acquired at the church office or on-line at: www.cathedralctk.org. If applicable, sacramental documentation should be provided at time of registration.

Attendance

To receive the maximum benefit from our religious education programs, students are asked to arrive promptly and to attend all religious education classes. If your child will be absent, please contact their teacher. It will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Emergency Information

A **current** address and telephone number for each student must be kept on file at all times.

Arrival/Dismissal

CCD meets from 10:10 a.m. to 11:05 a.m. every Sunday during the school year. For your child's safety and protection, all students should be escorted to their classroom and picked up from that location by a parent or guardian. Do not leave your child unless their teacher or assistant is present. The Youth Groups and Confirmation classes will meet in the youth activities building.

Facility Use

We share the building with many other parish groups including Christ the King School. Students will not be allowed in any room unsupervised and are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner.

Cancellation of Classes

In the event of severe weather, classes may be cancelled. Cancellations will be broadcast on local television stations.

Electronic Items

Electronic items such as cell phones, pagers, hand-held video games, etc. are not to be brought into religious education classes by students. CTK is not responsible for the safety of such items and their use will not be tolerated. If a student is found to be using an electronic device, the teacher will confiscate the item and return it to the parent at the end of the class period.

Classroom Behavior

Children are expected to be respectful to their teachers, their fellow students and the facility. Please remember that our teachers have prayerfully committed to give of their time and talents because they believe in the necessity and importance of a religious education for all children.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION/POLICIES

Parents are the primary educators of their children as they are their child's first teachers of the faith. According to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, parents/guardians have the "right and duty" to be intimately involved in the Sacramental preparation of their children. This obligation springs from the commitment made at the child's Baptism to form them in the Catholic faith.

Sacramental preparation is an integral part of the religious education program. Second graders usually receive First Reconciliation in the winter and First Communion in the spring. Seventh and eighth graders prepare for Confirmation during the school year and receive the Sacrament during the winter of their eighth grade year.

- **First Reconciliation/Communion:** The child must be enrolled in CCD no later than October 1st to be prepared for and make their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- **Confirmation:** The child must be enrolled in The Middle School Youth Group no later than October 1st to be prepared for and be confirmed at the parish Confirmation Mass (usually held in February). Students meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:15–8:30 p.m. After receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Confirmed youth will graduate to the High School Youth Group program on Sunday evenings.
- If your child enters our program from elsewhere, they must provide written verification of sacraments from the parish received and a letter or transcript from the coordinator of

the former religious education program.

- If a child is in need of Sacramental preparation and is not in the grade level that provides such instruction, parents are responsible for notifying the CCD or Youth Coordinator to discuss existing options.
- These policies may be modified in the best interests of the students, at the discretion of the Director of Faith Formation and after consultation with the Pastor.

These policies and guidelines are not particular to our parish program. They are consistent with policies adhered to by most CCD programs.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

It is our sincere hope that your cooperation with our policies and involvement in our program will assure the success of your child's Catechesis.

The Church recognizes the supreme responsibility of parents as the first and foremost teachers of their children in matters of faith. Your example, prayer life and participation in the weekly Sunday liturgy and other sacraments speak volumes to your children.

There are many ways to be formally involved in the Catechesis programs at CTK. Parents are needed as teachers, assistants, classroom helpers for special events and clerical support. Please contact the appropriate catechist if you are interested.

CONFIRMED YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We welcome and encourage the assistance of our church's Confirmed youth in our Catechesis programs. Their help would be greatly appreciated in the following areas:

- Classroom assistants in CCD and Preschool programs
- Vacation Bible School assistants and counselors
- Helpers for special events and sacramental programs

** All youth who have been confirmed are welcome to attend a training to become a lector and/or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at the Sunday evening Youth Mass. Please contact Rebecca Whitney at (859-268-1268) or ctkyouth@cdlex.org
Participation may be counted toward required school service hours.

RESOURCES

Our web site, www.cathedralctk.org and our parish library are wonderful resources for you and your children.

Cathedral Boys Choir, Girls Choir

The Cathedral Boys Choir and the Cathedral Girls Choir are open to all students beginning at age 8. The choirs sing separately for weekend mass and come together to sing as one choir on big occasions. Rehearsals are scheduled for one hour each week and 30 minute individual or small group lessons in music reading and singing are provided free of charge to members. Rehearsals and masses are scheduled during the school year. Please contact the Cathedral Music Ministry for more information.

Boys Choir

Robert Whitaker, Director of Music
335-3693
rwhitaker@cdlex.org

Girls Choir

Brian Hunt, Organist/Asst. Director of Music
335-3695
bhunt@cdlex.org

PARENT CONTRACT

I, _____, am aware of all the guidelines in the Christ the King Catechesis Handbook and will do my best to make sure our family fulfills the guidelines and expectations laid out in the handbook. Upholding these guidelines will assure the success of my child's Catechesis while attending CCD at Christ the King.

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

Please let us know if you are interested in helping in any of the following areas:

- VBS Volunteer
- Help with class projects, retreats or community service opportunities
- CCD Homeroom Parent (grade _____)
- CCD Teacher or Assistant (grade _____)
- Substitute Teacher (preferred grade _____)
- Middle or High School Youth Group

Please provide contact information:

NAME

E MAIL

PHONE (HOME, CELL)

Children enrolled in CCD:

NAMES AND GRADES

"In each child,
God whispers a new
secret to the world;
adds a new dimension of
immortality to creation"

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



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