

Religious Education Program 2018-2019

Beginning August 1st, you may register online at www.olphbakersfield.org or you may complete your registration on-site on **Sunday August 5th, 12th, or 19th after any Sunday Mass.** Classes start on Sunday, September 9th.

● MISSION

The Religious Education program at Our Lady of Perpetual Help is faithful to mission of the universal Church: *to bring men and women closer to Jesus Christ.* Through the teaching of our faith, we provide an opportunity for children and adults to learn about God, to experience His love and mercy, and to come into an authentic relationship with Him through the Sacraments and our community.

● HOW DO WE FULFILL OUR MISSION?

Our parish's religious education program is grounded on six fundamental areas which serve as the means by which the Gospel is shared with our community:

1. **Faith**—We learn of all Catholic teaching, specifically that which is contained in our profession of faith, the Creed.
2. **Liturgy**—We participate in public worship and come to recognize the reality of the Mass and the sacraments.
3. **Morality**—We study what God has revealed to us about good and evil and living a life of grace.
4. **Prayer**—We come in touch with God by speaking to Him in prayer and growing in our daily conversation with the Lord.
5. **Community**—We appreciate and affirm each other's presence as we grow in harmony with our brothers and sisters through group gatherings and personal sharing.
6. **Missionary Initiation**—We prepare ourselves to serve God and serve our neighbors in the everyday world.

● OUR COMMITMENT

Certified Catechist—In order to best serve our community by faithfully teaching the Catholic faith, and in accordance with the directive given by Bishop Armando Ochoa, all those who teach in any of our religious education programs have obtained or are in the process of obtaining their Catechist Certification in accordance with the guidelines of the Diocese of Fresno.

Safe Environment—Our first and most important effort is ensuring the safety of our children and creating a safe environment for them to call their church home. Here at our parish, following the guidelines and mandates given by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), we implement a safe environment program named *Safe and Sacred*. This program requires: 1) A signed written Code of Conduct by all employees and volunteers who work with children. 2) A training program for all adults who have contact with minors which includes prevention, identification, response and reporting of child



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abuse; bullying; and cyber safety. 3) A background check conducted through fingerprint clearance by the Department of Justice for all personnel and volunteers who work with our children. All of these efforts allow us to surround our children with safe and trained adults.

● PERSONAL INVITATION

As son and daughters of God, each and every one of us is invited to encounter the one true God in mind, body, heart and spirit. At OLPH, we invite everyone to join us on this journey by coming together and encountering the word of God with open hearts and allowing the Lord to touch our lives. Religious Education allows us to hear God's voice concretely in a human way where progressively our knowledge of God transforms into a full-hearted trust in Him, a life of faith. Whether you've never heard this message before or you have lived your whole life as a practicing Catholic, there is a place for you to come and learn, to prepare for the sacraments, to foster your spirituality, to grow in knowledge, to be part of a vibrant community of believers, and to enrich your faith...everyone is welcome!

On the following pages, please take some time to look at the different religious education opportunities we offer for children, teens, and adults. If you'd like to receive more details about any of our programs or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Religious Education Coordinator, Alvaro Romero, at (661) 323-3108 ext. 2 or at alvaro@olphbakersfield.org.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

● BAPTISM (Children age 7 or older)

The CCAT program (Children's Catechumenate) is for children who are seven years of age or older who have not yet been baptized in the Catholic faith. This 2-year program introduces our children to the values of our faith, gives them an age-appropriate understanding of our core beliefs, and welcomes them as new members of our parish community through their full initiation in the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation.

During the 1st year, students dive in and explore the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: the Creed, the Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer.

During their second year, students are fully prepared for the reception of all the Sacraments of Initiation by focusing on each one individually (Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation) and understanding their meaning, from the symbols and rites that they see to the change they will experience in their spiritual life. Furthermore, students come to see how the sacraments are part of their everyday life.

Our classrooms are divided into grade-appropriate groups ranging from Elementary, Jr. High, and High School. Classes are held every Sunday from 10:30am to 11:45am from September thru April.

● FIRST COMMUNION

Our First Communion preparation class is a two-year program by which we bring our students to understand the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and prepare them to participate in their First Reconciliation (Confession) and to receive their First Holy Communion.

During the first year of this program, students are invited to know, love, and trust God and His love story by learning about God's existence, the purpose of creation, His relationship with humanity, and God's promise of salvation.

In the 2nd year, students are prepared specifically for Reconciliation and First Communion by learning of our faith as God's work of salvation, and focusing on God's infinite love and mercy which they will encounter in the sacraments.

These classes are for children who have been baptized and attend 1st grade or higher in school. Our classrooms are divided into grade appropriate groups ranging from Elementary, Jr. High, and High School. Classes are held every Sunday from 10:30am to 11:45am from September thru April.

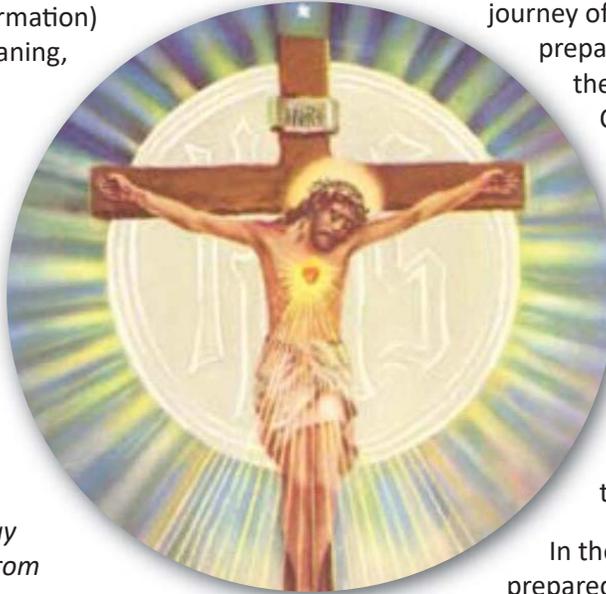
● CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation preparation class is a two-year program for high school students by which we bring our students to more deeply understand the teachings of the Catholic faith and embark on a journey of conversion and discipleship by preparing them to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation.

During the first year, students spend time learning and discussing the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: the Creed, the Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer. In doing so, they are invited to make the connection of our faith with the reality of their young adult lives.

In the second year, students are prepared specifically for the sacrament of Confirmation by going deeper in knowledge of their personal identity, the identity of God and how these two realities become one as they are called to live their identity as Children of God. In addition, our students also learn about Theology of the Body, the Church's teaching on God's purpose for the human person as men and women created in the image of God.

These classes are for teens who have been baptized and are at least Sophomores in High School. Classes are held every Sunday from 6:45pm to 8:00pm from September thru May. (Students who attend Garces Memorial High School are only required to complete the 2nd year of the program.)



ON-GOING FORMATION

● KINDER CATHOLIC

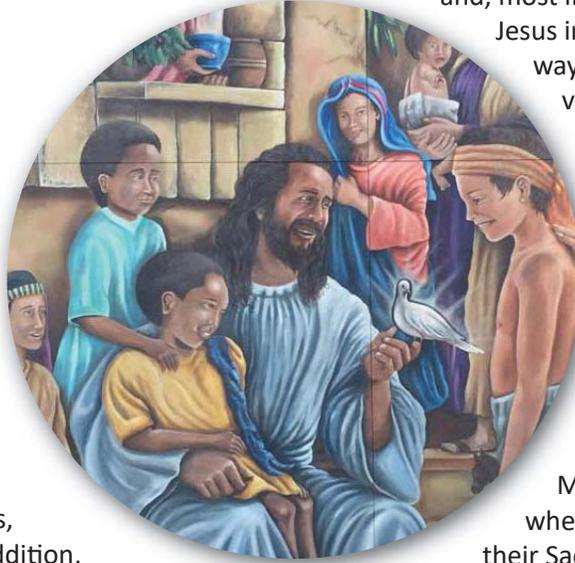
The Kinder Catholic program is a yearly program offered for children from the age of 3 to 5 years which introduces our young children to the Word of God. Every gathering, our pre-school and kindergarten students learn about Jesus Christ by listening to the Sunday Gospel, which is then made real to the children by accompanying activities such as drawing and coloring, puzzles, arts and crafts, and interactive discussion. In addition, our young ones also get the opportunity to hear the wonderful stories found in the Bible or the lives of the Saints. The children come to praise God through music and prayer, including the Mass hymns and psalms, and are taught Catholic devotions at their level. *These sessions are for pre-k, T-K, and Kindergarten children and take place every Sunday from 10:30am to 11:30am (during the 10:30am Mass time) from September thru April.*

● KID'S FAITH CLUB

The Kids Faith Club is a yearly program for elementary students to come and learn about the many various aspects of the Catholic faith and grow in their spiritual life through prayer and reflection. Our students learn about God's plan to save his people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to Heaven through His word, His law, and His Church. Many students who have already received their First Holy Communion attend these sessions as an opportunity to foster their young relationship with God, but the Faith Club is open to any elementary student whether or not they have received their Sacraments. *Sessions are held every Sunday from 10:30am to 11:45am from September thru April.*

● JR. HIGH FAITH CLUB

The Jr. High Faith Club is a yearly program for Middle School and Jr. High students which provides a fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community, to get answers to their questions about the faith,



and, most importantly, to experience Jesus in a profound and personal way. Throughout the year, many various topics are discussed in such a manner to which our youth can relate and begin practicing in their daily lives at their age. Many students who have already received their First Holy Communion attend these sessions as an opportunity to foster their young relationship with God, but the Faith Club is open to any Middle School or Jr. High student whether or not they have received their Sacraments. *Sessions are held every Sunday from 10:30am to 11:45am from September thru April.*

● LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

Liturgy of the Word with Children is a special ritual separate from the Mass in which the children hear the Sunday Mass readings in a focused environment where they can easily become active listeners. During the beginning of the 9:00am and 10:30am Masses, children from the ages 5-12 years are invited to come forth and be dismissed to participate in their own celebration. Just as the those who remain in Mass listen to readings from Scripture, sing a psalm, and experience Jesus in the Gospel, so do the children through these same readings which have been adapted for their comprehension. This ceremony is separate from Mass merely in space, but is connected with the Mass from which the children are dismissed as they participate in an experience which enables them to also be nurtured by the Word of God. At Mass, after the Creed is recited, the children are brought back to rejoin their parents and family for the remainder of the Mass.

This liturgy is offered every Sunday at the 9:00am and 10:30am Masses from September thru April.

There is no registration needed for participation in the Children's Liturgy. If you attend Mass at 9am or 10:30am, simply listen for the invitation by the priest for the children to come forth, and the group will be led out by their leader.

ADULT SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Our Adult Sacramental program based on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), is the process our Church offers for individuals to become Catholic and receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. This journey takes place through several stages over a period of time suitable to provide a thorough teaching of the faith, develop a life of prayer, provide experience of the community, and integrate members into the liturgical and moral life of the Catholic faithful. Our program is for:

1. Adults who have expressed an interest in becoming Catholic
2. Adults baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to become Catholic
3. Adults baptized Catholic in need of First Communion and/or Confirmation

In order to best serve all those entering the Church, our program offers two distinct branches taking into consideration people's current walk on their spiritual journey:

● RCIA (CHRISTIAN INITIATION PROCESS)

The RCIA program is for those who have never been baptized in any faith; those who were baptized in the Catholic tradition and need to receive their First Communion and Confirmation; and those who have been baptized in another tradition and would now like to convert to Catholicism. This process begins with an introduction to the values of our faith and an opportunity for new members to ask questions and be introduced to the Gospel. Then,



an extended period of time is dedicated to an in-depth focus on the teachings and truths of the Catholic doctrine. As the members come closer to the reception of their sacraments, time is taken for them to spiritually prepare to receive the sacraments. Lastly, members are invited to be fully

initiated through the reception of the sacraments, which is followed by a post-sacramental period in which they meditate on the Gospel and begin to discern their place and work as they are now part of the Church.

This process takes anywhere from 9 months up to 2 years depending on various circumstances. Sessions are held every Tuesday from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in the parish hall.

● ADULT CONFIRMATION

The Adult Confirmation program is for those who were baptized Catholic as a child and received their First Holy Communion and now desire to complete their initiation and receive the sacrament of Confirmation. This course is an in-depth study of the four pillars of Catholic teaching: doctrine, the sacraments, morality, and prayer. In addition, these classes focus on the nature of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, as well as on conversion, the Gospel, professing the faith, and personal prayer.

This program takes place over the course of 14-16 weeks with new sessions beginning in Fall (September) and Spring (February). Classes are held every Sunday following the 12:00pm Mass, from 1:05pm to 2:30pm, in the hall.

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM,
12:00 noon, 5:30 PM

Daily Masses:

Monday: No services
Tuesday: 6:00 PM (Spanish)
Wednesday–Thursday: 7:00 AM
Friday: 7:00 AM (during summer months) or 8:15 AM (during the school year)

Sacraments

Confessions: Thursday 5 PM (until all are heard), or by appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays at 5 PM. All are welcome!

Infant Baptism (under 7 years): Celebrated in English at 10 AM on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, and in Spanish at 10 AM on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. Contact the parish office for details.

Marriage: Contact the parish office for details.

Mass Intentions

JULY 28	5:00 PM	Roy & Carolyn Twissellmann (Michael & Stephanie Beckwith)
JULY 29	7:30 AM	Richie & Stephanie Ferrera & Family
	9:00 AM	Thomas and Jeffries Families
	10:30 AM	Terry Thompson (Bill & Avon Wonderly)
	12:00 PM	Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the People)
	5:30 PM	Jack Farrer (Gonzalez Family)
JULY 30	No services.	
JULY 31	6:00 PM	Crystal Watts (ICF #281)
AUG. 1	7:00 AM	Helen & Beverly Ribble (Bob & Gerry Carr)
AUG. 2	7:00 AM	Peggy Sinichko
AUG. 3	7:00 AM	Marian Zasoski (Thomas Douglass)