

# **Christian Formation Handbook**

**2015-2016**

**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
Brusly, LA**

2015-2016

# **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**VERY REV. MATTHEW P. LORRAIN, PASTOR**

# THE CHRISTIAN FORMATION OF YOUTH

## AND YOUNG ADULT MISSION STATEMENT

Jesus Christ is the center of our life together at St. John the Baptist Parish. We accept our threefold mission which includes **deepening** the incarnation of the living Christ within us, **celebrating our call to discipleship** as His church community and, **sharing** His presence by the way we serve one another. We shall pursue this mission faithfully through the **power** of the Holy Spirit and the **gifts** and **talents** of our members.

## ***DEFINING OUR GOALS:***

## **1. Resources modeled on the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.**

**These four pillars are *belief, worship, morality, and prayer.***

Resources used in grades K-11 are in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and The General Directory for Catechesis.

Grades K-6: Call to Faith Publisher, *Our Sunday Visitor*

Grade 7: Faith Fusion Publisher, *Our Sunday Visitor*

Grade 8: Encounter *Ascension Press*; Theology of the Body Middle School  
*Ascension Press*

Grades 9: Theology of the Body High School *Ascension Press*

Grade 10: Chosen Part 1 *Ascension Press*

Grade 11: Total Catechesis (Liturgy and the Sacraments), *St. Mary's Press*

2. To deepen our understanding of the faith relationship between family, parish and catechetical ministry.

Parish, family, and catechist make up the indispensable “we” that constitutes the community of faith. Our program at St. John the Baptist will work at strengthening the partnership of home, parish community, and catechesis. For it is in the whole parish where the life of faith is nurtured.

We then as the people of God come to a deeper awareness of our catechetical ministry as grace. It has often been said and now bears repeating that faith is caught *and* taught. Faith is caught, or deeply experienced, wherever and whenever family members are in harmony with one another and with God. Faith is caught in the word and work of the believing parish. The ordered unfolding of belief, worship, morality, and prayer occurs in catechesis. Here that very faith, which as been caught at home and in the parish, is taught. And so it is that the faith community “constitutes itself as the living and permanent environment for growth in the faith” (*General Directory for Catechesis*, #158).

### **3. To celebrate Eucharist together as it is the center and source of parish life and worship.**

Liturgical catechesis, prepares for the sacraments by promoting a deeper understanding and experience of the liturgy. This explains the contents of the prayers, the meaning of the signs and gestures, educates to active participation, contemplation and silence. (GDC, #71)

Families attend Sunday liturgy and Holy Days of Obligation together. Adults demonstrate and set the example for manners; they teach citizenship; they carry on and honor family, civic, and religious traditions. Families need the support of the faith community to help them teach children how Catholics gather, proclaim the Word, celebrate, and serve.

Sunday scripture readings play a vital part in weekly catechesis.

### **4. To integrate catechesis and the parish's ministry of service.**

Identify liturgical ministries open to young people, such as hospitality, music, altar servers. etc.

Use an apprenticeship, partnering, or mentoring model to gradually introduce the children to the parish's ministry in effective, age-appropriate ways that capitalize on the children's skills and interests.

Embrace the gospel message by calling all youth and young adults to Christian service within the parish community and in the community at large. This will be done at age appropriate levels.

### **5. To effectively integrate social justice issues into the overall catechetical message.**

To help the children expand their caring in a natural way from self to family and friends, to parish and local community, to the world, and, ultimately, to all creation.

Outline the major components of the Church's social teachings.

*The call to foster the dignity and right to life of every human person*

*The call to foster healthy families and to participate in the life of the community*

*The call to foster both the moral rights and the responsibilities of every human person*

*The call to respond in a special way to the needs of the poor and the vulnerable*

*The call to uphold the dignity of work and to defend the rights of workers*

*The call to strive to live in solidarity with all people on earth regardless of race, gender, or creed*

*The call to be good stewards of God's creation*

Possibly having community days within the catechetical program to address social issues.

**6. To be a Christ centered people led by the Holy Spirit and nourished by God through an active prayer life.**

Types and models of prayer:

Community Music and Prayer to begin ALL RELIGION SESSIONS!! ACTIVITY CENTER OR CHURCH

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrated for the parish community at the parish

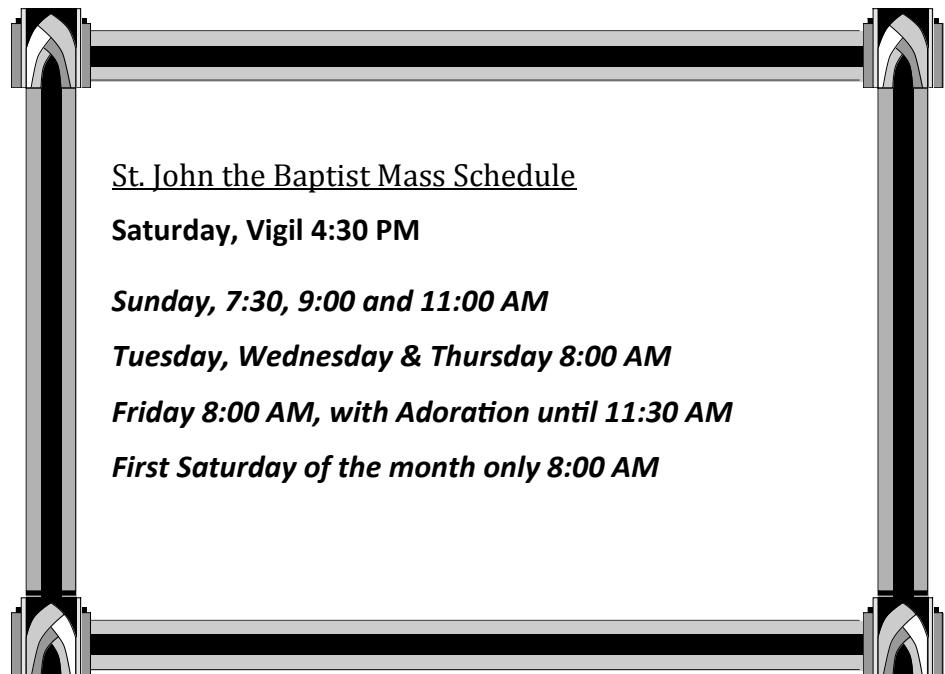
Penance services in Advent and Lent

Sacrament of First Eucharist

Sacrament of Confirmation

Youth and young adults gather together to pray as community. Each catechism session ends with prayer.

Encourage families to pray together.



St. John the Baptist Mass Schedule

**Saturday, Vigil 4:30 PM**

**Sunday, 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 AM**

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 AM**

**Friday 8:00 AM, with Adoration until 11:30 AM**

**First Saturday of the month only 8:00 AM**

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

1. We expect youth and young adults to be respectful to the adults present as well as their peers. Appropriate behavior should be used at all times. **Practice the three “R’s”: reverence, respect, responsibility.**
2. Once registered, youth are expected to attend all sessions. 80% attendance is the minimum requirement. Attendance is necessary for sacramental preparation and celebration.
3. Youth and young adults should arrive for **Christian Formation no more than 15 minutes** before their session and leave at their proper dismissal time. **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MUST REPORT TO THE ACTIVITY CENTER WHEN THEY ARRIVE**. No one is to leave the church property before or during a session without permission from the Director. This is for the safety of your child. Elementary and Jr. High youth reporting in late should check in at the office before going to their classroom. High School youth are required to sign in at their classroom. If a child has to leave a session early they must have written permission from a parent. The Christian Formation office will make a copy for the catechist and keep a copy on file.
4. All youth are expected to dress in an appropriate manner. This means clothes that respect the holiness of the individual as well as our place of worship. No caps; tight, short or low cut blouses; short shorts; pants with advertising on the backside; pajama bottoms; or slippers are to be worn to formation, in the classroom or the church. If hip-hugger pants are worn make sure the blouse or shirt is long enough to cover the stomach.
5. The use of gum, tobacco, drugs or alcohol is prohibited on church premises.
6. **No electronic or battery operated communication equipment or games, such as ipods, portable video games, pagers, cell phones, etc. are allowed. If one is brought to class it will be placed in a basket and returned at the end of the class. If used at any time during class or mass the device will be taken from the youth. In order to have the device returned an appointment with Mrs. Hebert will have to be made.**
7. All are expected to abide by the guidelines of the program and by the directives of the adult catechists and helpers. If there is a disruption, the young person will be sent to the office to speak to the Director. Parents will be called when necessary.
8. Be involved in the catechesis process of your child. Check your child's schedule for special times and dates when parents are invited to participate. You are also welcome to come by anytime to share a regular lesson with us!
9. Take time to get to know your child's catechist. He/she would be happy to share your child's faith experiences with you. Address and telephone number of your child's catechist is available upon request.

## **Christian Formation Policies 2015-2016**

### **Attendance**

**Grades K thru 8:** A student who does not meet the 80% attendance requirement will have to repeat the grade level

- Children can be dropped off 15 minutes before class times. **THEY MUST REPORT TO THE ACTIVITY CENTER.**
- There will be NO CATECHIST on duty to receive students until 15 minutes (5:15 p.m.) before class. If **YOU** arrive early, it will be **YOUR** responsibility to stay with your child. **YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO STAY AND JOIN US FOR MUSIC AND PRAYER!**
- We continue to try and make this a win-win for all involved. Working together, supporting each other as a team is key to the success of the program.

**Grades 9 thru 11:** Only excused absences will be accepted and must be handed into the office before the student can return to class.

Students with excused absences will be allowed to make up the work. It is the student's responsibility to ask for class work missed.

### **Discipline**

**Grades K thru 8:**

- One warning will be given by the catechist.
- Second disruption the student is sent to the office. The student may return to class depending on the offense or the attitude of the student. Parents of students who are asked to leave class for discipline reasons should expect a phone call from the DRE.
- **IF A CELL PHONE IS BROUGHT TO CLASS IT WILL BE PLACED IN A BASKET DURING CLASS AND STUDENTS WILL PICK UP AFTER CLASS**
- Parents will be called for a serious offense or habitual disruptions.

**Teaching time is valuable and limited, therefore, your support is essential.**

**High School**

- Attendance at all classes is **required.**
- Only excused absences are accepted. You must hand in an excuse to attend your next class.

- All missed work has to be made up. It is your responsibility to get your missed assignments.
- Zero tolerance in and out of the classroom. You are asked to show respect for your teachers and peers. If you are put out of class for disruptive behavior of any kind, you may not return to class unless the student and parents meet with the DRE and/or pastor.
- **You are asked to attend Mass regularly. Not attending Mass could delay Confirmation on all grade levels.**
- All electronic devices should be turned off before class begins. Phones causing a disturbance in class will be picked up until after class. *The best option is to leave the phones at home.*
- **Service Hours: Required for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade: FIFTEEN HOURS.**
- Catechists have requested that there be **NO GUM CHEWING** in class.
- NO smoking or drinking of alcohol. Student's parents will be notified and student will be sent home. Parents and students will have to schedule a meeting with Fr. Matt to decide if they are able to return to class.
- **RETREATS ARE REQUIRED.** It is the responsibility of the student and/or parent to find another retreat if the student does not attend the scheduled retreat in our parish.

## **TRAFFIC: DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP OF YOUTH**

### **GRADES K-8TH**

**DROP OFF:** THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING CHILDREN TO THEIR CLASSROOMS TO MEET THE CATECHISTS. This will help you to know which classroom your child's class will be held.

Class lists will be posted on the wall of the Christian Formation building to assist you in locating your child's classroom during the month of September.

The area beyond St. Francis Hall is reserved for our Christian Formation campus and is therefore restricted for the children's safety.

Parents should enter the north side of the parking lot and circle to drop their child off near the church plaza.

**PICKUP: K—4TH GRADE ONLY:** For the safety of your children, please walk to your child/children's classroom for pick up

If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up the child, that person must be listed on your child's registration card. If that person is not listed on the card, we will contact the parent/guardian for verbal permission.

**5TH—8TH WILL BE ALLOWED TO WALK TO THE CAR TO MEET PARENTS IN CARPOOL WITH ADULT SUPERVISION.**

K-4<sup>th</sup> Grades are dismissed at 6:30 PM.

5th-8<sup>th</sup> Grades are dismissed at 8:15 PM.

9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> are dismissed at 8:30 PM.

### **RAINY DAY SCHEDULES FOR K THRU 8TH GRADES**

Drive to the back and drop your child off near to their classroom. Do the same for when picking up your child. Please follow instructions of adult volunteers.

### **HIGH SCHOOL - GRADES 9-11**

Parents must closely supervise teens that drive to Christian Formation. Responsible, safe driving must be practiced at all times when on St. John the Baptist Parish Church grounds. (NO TEXTING AND DRIVING PLEASE)

# **St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**

**Very Rev. Matthew P. Lorrain, Pastor**

## **Grades K— 11th**

**I HAVE READ AND REVIEWED WITH MY PARENTS  
THE POLICIES FOR ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
CHRISTIAN FORMATION. PARENT ONLY SIGNS FOR  
K-3 GRADE, BUT PLEASE WRITE CHILD'S NAME ON  
STUDENT LINE. STUDENT AND PARENT SIGN FOR  
4TH – 11TH GRADES. WE UNDERSTAND THEM AND  
WILL ADHERE TO THEM.**

**GRADE:**     K     1st     2nd     3rd     4th     5th  
       6th     7th     8th     9th     10th     11th

**PARENT SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

