

St. Benedict's Parish
521 MCCOSH DR., CHESAPEAKE, VA 23320

August 15, 2024

Dear Parents,

The Catechism Program at St. Benedict's Parish prepares children from K4 through 12th grade for reception of the Sacraments and for adulthood. Each year, parents must **register their children by August 4th** by completing a Catechism Registration form which is available either in the Narthex, Forrest Hall, Parish Office or online at: http://www.stbenedictsparish.org/catechism_registration/

This year classes are offered from August through April and meet from 9:45 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. (between the second and third Sunday Masses). Students are **allowed NO MORE THAN 5 absences during the year** (*see attached schedule*). There are five classes offered: Basic Catechism, First Communion Class, Post Communion Class, Confirmation Class, and Apologetics Class. Further information on these classes is provided at the attached Catalog.

Students who will make their First Confession and First Communion or their Confirmation **must be registered members** of St. Benedict's Parish and must have a certified copy of their Baptismal Certificate. **There will also be a \$30 fee for required items for their First Communion.** *The Baptismal Certificate must be issued by the parish where they were baptized with embossed seal and dated WITHIN 6 months prior to reception of the Sacrament and turned into St. Benedicts with the fee, NO LATER THAN THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY BEFORE* the child's First Confession/First Communion, or Confirmation.

First Penance and First Communion normally are scheduled for the first weekend in May (the Sacrament of First Penance followed by First Communion practice on Saturday prior to First Communion).

Students who have not yet been confirmed are encouraged to participate in St. Benedict's **All Saints Day Fall Festival** and the **Children's Annual Christmas Pageant** wearing the costume of their favorite saint.

Confirmation will normally occur in May or June.

Additionally, there will be a \$10 fee assessed for failure to return designated books at the end of the curriculum.

Please pray for our catechists and our Catechism Program, that the Parish teachers may be docile to God's Holy Will in preparing for sainthood your precious treasure.

This letter, along with the Catechism Catalog is also posted on our website at:

<http://www.stbenedictsparish.org/catechism/>

Please feel free to contact me with any questions on our Catechism program.

Yours in Christ, through Mary,

Father Neal Nichols, FSSP

Basic Catechism Class

Students must be 4 years old by September 30th to enter this two-year program. The objective of the yearly curriculum is to introduce the students to their basic prayers (Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, and Apostles Creed); basic postures (folding hands, when and how to genuflect); items in the sanctuary (sanctuary light, Tabernacle, etc) and Seven Sacraments, and the Ten Commandments. Focus of the instruction is to prepare the children for the next stage of instruction, First Communion Class. Parent(s) or responsible sibling (at least 12 years old) must come to the classroom to escort your child's safe departure. Notify instructor with any changes. All children must be properly attired.

Instructor: Mrs. Mary Macera; bride4anthony@aol.com; Phone: (757) 460-2980.

First Communion Class

First Communion Class provides a minimum of 2 years preparation by studying the lessons in the "New Saint Joseph First Communion Catechism" book. Students must be 6 years old by September 30th to enter this two-year program. The objectives of the yearly curriculum are designed to increase the knowledge of each student to learn: (1) the purpose of man's existence; (2) God and His Perfections; (3) the Unity and the Trinity of God; (4) Original Sin; (5) actual sin; (6) the Incarnation; (7) Redemption; (8) the seven Sacraments most especially Baptism, Penance, and Holy Eucharist; (9) Ten Commandments; (10) how to make a good Confession; and (11) how to pray the Holy Mass.

At least the last four weeks of each catechism year are devoted only for those receiving the Sacrament of First Confession and First Communion.

Requirements include the following: (a) parental assistance with student studying catechism and prayers at home plus attending the Holy Mass in the Extraordinary Form; (b) student satisfactorily completes periodic verbal and written quizzes; (c) use of Sacramentals such as Rosary, prayer book, holy cards, and brown scapular, additional requirements as provided by the teacher during the year.

Participants can expect the following class structure:

- Practice each week the following prayers by reciting together in class:
 - Apostles Creed (opening prayer)
 - Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Angel of God, Act of Contrition
 - Recitation of the Ten Commandments
- Individual recitation of prayers and demonstration of sign of the cross, genuflection, etc.
- Catechism lesson (20 minutes); Holy Mass lesson (10 minutes); activities commensurate with lesson may be scheduled like supervised visits to the church/Most Blessed Sacrament.
- Closing prayer recited by all
- Dismissal with Holy Card
- Parent(s) or responsible sibling (at least 12 years old) must come to the classroom to escort your child's safe departure. Notify instructor with any changes. All children must be properly attired.

Instructor: Mrs. Rowanne Stephenson; Phone: (757) 353-0670; email: whiteskirt81@yahoo.com.

Sacrament Requirements:

The First Communicant must:

- 7 years old by September 30th of the Fall prior to reception
- successful completion the aforementioned two-year program
 - demonstrated knowledge of the curriculum

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Attire for First Communion: Girls wear white dresses with veil and white shoes (a white purse and white gloves will be supplied by St. Benedict's); Boys wear a dark suit (or dark blazer) with a white shirt, arm band and a white tie (tie and arm band are supplied by St. Benedict's). First Communicants will be inducted into the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular the same day they make their First Holy Communion, a Brown Scapular will be provided for each child by St. Benedict's.

Post Communion Class

The Confirmation preparation catechism class (junior level) is appropriate for children who received their First Holy Communion and are 7 to 10 years old. Baltimore Catechism book Number One is the primary textbook for the course. Supplemental texts and workbooks will be added this year from the series, "Catholic Stories for Boys and Girls," republished by Neumann Press. The Post-Communion Class objective is to take the main point of each lesson and to show how it is illustrated or exemplified in some event of Sacred Scripture. The concrete picture language of the Bible will serve as a big help to the child in better understanding the main truths presented in the more abstract language of the question and answers of the official Baltimore Catechism. This textbook presents the class material in three major parts: (1) basic Catholic doctrine as summarized in the Apostles Creed, (2) the Ten Commandments of God and the Six Commandments of the Church, and (3) Sacraments and prayers. Since the class incorporates reading and writing assignments, the children are expected to have these basic skills. Minimum requirements for advancing to the Pre-Confirmation Class is age 10 years old and proved mastery of the class curriculum.

Instructor: Ms. Marie Toure, email: mtoure120@gmail.com; and Ms. Katrina Cramer, email: kcramerd@yahoo.com.

Confirmation Class

The Confirmation Class provides a one-year preparation teaching the content from the St. Joseph's Baltimore Catechism No.2. Students must be 11 years old by September 30, 2023 to enter the class. Classes will begin on August 18, 2023. Students are expected to know (mainly by memorization) the answers to the questions of the catechism and to recite them orally in class, and occasionally in writing.

Confirmation classes take place on most **SATURDAYS**, from 10am-11am. Those who are genuinely unable to attend will be provided with a video of the class and tested by the instructor separately. There will be a written mid-term exam, and an oral final, as well as a writing assignment on one's Confirmation saint.

Sacramental Requirements:

- demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the subject matter
- reached the age of 13 by June 1, 2024
- copy of baptismal certificate dated after January, 2024 (unless baptized at St. Benedict's)
- qualified sponsor

Instructor: Fr. Michael Kokoszka; email: TBD

Apologetics Class

The Apologetics Class is a high school level class, designed to prepare young adults for their college and adult years. Students will learn how the Church is NOT Bible-based, but how the Bible is based on the Church, and has always been an integral part of the Catholic Church. They will learn how, "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ" – St. Jerome. They will learn how they are, as St. Paul states, "an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, and written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not on tablets of stone, but on the fleshly tablets of the human heart." (2Cor3:3).

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Students will learn how to, “Evangelize all the time, and sometimes use words” (*St. Francis Assisi*). Students will learn to, “...reverence the Lord Christ in their hearts, and always have an answer ready for people who ask them for the reason for the hope that is within them. But, to give the defense with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander them when they are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring” (*1Pt 3:15*). They will learn how their prior catechism instruction that required them to, “learn their catechism by heart,” instead of, “memorize it,” was designed to tune their heart and ear to the Shepherd’s voice, for He said, “My sheep hear my voice: and I know them, and they follow me.” (*Jn 10:27*).

(Insert additional info here)

Prep time needed: 1 hour/week. Students will be expected to complete the assignments and be prepared to discuss the assigned reading in class.

Prerequisites: Students must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, and must be under the age of 18 at enrollment.

Instructor: Mr. John Bauer, jbauer@regent.edu, Phone: (270) 484-8222.

Adult Catechism

People aged 18 years old and up may enroll in the Adult Catechism program offered for converts, adult Catholics who need the Sacraments, and those wanting to review their faith. The class is offered by our priest which meets weekly beginning on August 19, 2024. Date and time will be announced in the church bulletin and on the church website.

St. Benedict's Parish

CCD Schedule
Aug 2024-May 2025

Date	Lesson
Sun, 11 Aug (12th Sunday after Pentecost) (Registration Forms passed out during Sunday Masses)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
<i>NO CLASS</i>	
Sun, 18 Aug (13 th Sunday after Pentecost) (Registration Forms passed out during Sunday Masses)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
<i>NO CLASS</i>	
Sun, 25 Aug (14th Sunday after Pentecost) (Mandatory Parent Teacher meeting after 1 st and 3 rd Sunday Masses)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
<i>NO CLASS</i>	
Sun, 1 Sep (15 th Sunday after Pentecost)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
<i>NO CLASS</i>	
Sun, 8 Sep (16 th Sunday after Pentecost)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
<i>Catechism Classes Begin Classes: 9:45-10:30</i>	
Sun, 15 Sep (17 th Sunday after Pentecost)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
Sun, 22 Sep (18 th Sunday after Pentecost)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
Sun, 29 Sep (Michaelmas, 19 th Sunday after Pentecost)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
Sun, 6 Oct (External Solemnity of Our Lady of the Rosary / 20 th Sunday after Pentecost)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
Sun, 13 Oct (21 st Sunday after Pentecost) (Columbus Day Weekend) <i>Annual Eucharistic Procession on Boardwalk or Rosary Procession</i>	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
	Basic Catechism:

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CCD Schedule

Aug 2024-May 2025

Sun, 20 Oct (22 nd Sunday after Pentecost)	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
Sun, 27 Oct (Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
NO CLASS (Optional)	Apologetics:
Sun, 3 Nov (4 th Resumed Sunday after Epiphany)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
<i>(Set Clocks back 1 Hour)</i>	Apologetics:
Sun, 10 Nov (5 th Resumed Sunday after Epiphany)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
Apologetics:	
Sun, 17 Nov (6 th Resumed Sunday after Epiphany)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
Apologetics:	
Sun, 24 Nov (24 th and last Sunday after Epiphany)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
Apologetics:	
Sun, 1 Dec (1 st Sunday of Advent) Thanksgiving Weekend	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
NO CLASS	Apologetics:
Sun, 8 Dec (2 nd Sunday of Advent)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
Apologetics:	
Sun, 15 Dec (3 rd Sunday of Advent) (Gaudete Sunday) (Christmas Pageant)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
NO CLASS	Apologetics:
Sun, 22 Dec (4 th Sunday of Advent)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
NO CLASS	Apologetics:
Sun, 29 Dec (Sunday within Octave of the Nativity of the Lord)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
NO CLASS	Apologetics:
	Basic Catechism:

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Aug 2024-May 2025

Sun, 5 Jan (The Most Holy Name of Jesus)	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
Sun, 12 Jan (The Holy Family)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
Sun, 19 Jan (2 nd Sunday after Epiphany)	Apologetics:
	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
Sun, 26 Jan (3 rd Sunday after Epiphany)	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
Sun, 2 Feb (The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary)	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
	Basic Catechism:
Sun, 9 Feb (5 th Sunday after Epiphany)	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
Sun, 16 Feb (Septuagesima Sunday) (First Sunday of Lent)	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
Sun, 23 Feb (Sexagesima Sunday)	Apologetics:
	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
Sun, 2 Mar (Quinquagesima Sunday)	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
	Basic Catechism:
	First Communion:
Sun, 9 Mar (First Sunday of Lent) <i>(Set Clocks forward 1 Hour)</i>	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
	Basic Catechism:
Sun, 16 Mar (2 nd Sunday of Lent)	First Communion:
	Post-Communion:
	Confirmation:
	Apologetics:
Sun, 23 Mar (3 rd Sunday of Lent)	Basic Catechism:

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Catechism Registration Form PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Date: _____

FAMILY NAME _____ Registered in Parish: Yes: _____ No: _____

If your child is receiving a sacrament for the first time this year, you must be registered in the Parish

STREET _____ Home Phone _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ Work Phone _____ Cell: _____

Email address _____

Family Marital Status: _____

FATHER

MOTHER

Last Name: _____

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

First Name: _____

Title (Mr., Dr, Rank, etc.): _____

Title (Mrs., Ms, Dr, Rank, etc.): _____

Where were your children enrolled in Religious Education Classes last year? _____

Were your children enrolled in a Catholic School? Yes _____ No _____

Please state the name of the parish and city where located: _____

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____
BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___
SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____
BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___
Where? _____

SACRAMENTS RECEIVED
BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___
PENANCE: yes ___ no ___
EUCHARIST: yes ___ no ___
CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____
BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___
SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____
BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___
Where? _____

SACRAMENTS RECEIVED
BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___
PENANCE: yes ___ no ___
EUCHARIST: yes ___ no ___
CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____
BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___
SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____
BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___
Where? _____

SACRAMENTS RECEIVED
BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___
PENANCE: yes ___ no ___
EUCHARIST: yes ___ no ___
CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____
BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___
SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____
BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___
Where? _____

SACRAMENTS RECEIVED
BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___
PENANCE: yes ___ no ___
EUCHARIST: yes ___ no ___
CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____
BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___
SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____
BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___
Where? _____

SACRAMENTS RECEIVED
BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___
PENANCE: yes ___ no ___
EUCHARIST: yes ___ no ___
CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____
BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___
SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____
BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___
Where? _____

SACRAMENTS RECEIVED
BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___
PENANCE: yes ___ no ___
EUCHARIST: yes ___ no ___
CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___

(OVER)

St. Benedict's Parish
Catechism Registration Form
PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____ BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___ SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____ BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___ Where? _____	SACRAMENTS RECEIVED BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___ PENANCE: yes ___ no ___ EUCCHARIST: yes ___ no ___ CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___
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CHILD'S FULL NAME _____ BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___ SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____ BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___ Where? _____	SACRAMENTS RECEIVED BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___ PENANCE: yes ___ no ___ EUCCHARIST: yes ___ no ___ CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___
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CHILD'S FULL NAME _____ BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___ SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____ BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___ Where? _____	SACRAMENTS RECEIVED BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___ PENANCE: yes ___ no ___ EUCCHARIST: yes ___ no ___ CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___
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CHILD'S FULL NAME _____ BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___ SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____ BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___ Where? _____	SACRAMENTS RECEIVED BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___ PENANCE: yes ___ no ___ EUCCHARIST: yes ___ no ___ CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___
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CHILD'S FULL NAME _____ BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___ SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____ BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___ Where? _____	SACRAMENTS RECEIVED BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___ PENANCE: yes ___ no ___ EUCCHARIST: yes ___ no ___ CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___
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CHILD'S FULL NAME _____ BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YY _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___ SCHOOL _____ GRADE Entering _____ BAPTIZED? yes ___ no ___ Where? _____	SACRAMENTS RECEIVED BAPTISM: yes ___ no ___ PENANCE: yes ___ no ___ EUCCHARIST: yes ___ no ___ CONFIRMATION: yes ___ no ___
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Are there any special needs / concerns that you would like us to know about (any of) your child(ren)?
 (e.g., physical /learning disability)

Please indicate in which way you might help by checking the space below. Thank you.
 Instructor _____ Assistant Classroom Helper _____ Substitute _____
 Date of Virtus Training: _____

I have read the Catechism Catalog, and agree to the requirements for each grade level, and will comply with the necessary sacramental requirements for my child.

Parent/Guradian:
Printed Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____