

Dear St. Matthew Family,

We are excited to share with you the program information for our 2018-2019 Faith Formation year! Please read all information carefully and plan on attending our open registration the weekend of **April 28-29**.

There are three opportunities to register:

1. **April 28: 6:30-8 pm at the Parish Family Picnic in Waxhaw.**
2. **April 29: 8 am - 2 pm in the New Life Center, Main Campus.**
3. Families may also submit registrations at their session during the final two weeks of classes (April 29-May 2; May 6-9).
 - ✓ Family Registration forms will be pre-printed with parent/guardian and student information and will be picked up at the check-in table at open registration, or in the narthex during sessions.
 - ✓ After reviewing information on the form, parent/guardian may select the grade and time for which they wish to register their children. ***Please bring your medical insurance information, and if your child is in grade 1, 2, 7 or 8, please bring a copy of Baptismal Certificate if your child was not baptized at St. Matthew or you have not already submitted to our office.***
 - ✓ In all cases...
 - Class specific or Catechist specific requests will not be guaranteed.
 - Payment is expected at the time of registration, and may be in the form of **cash, check or credit card**. Scholarship or financial consideration is available. Students will not be placed in a class until payment (or scholarship approval) is received – *this means spot is not guaranteed without payment and could be forfeited.*

After May 9, the acceptance of registrations will be temporarily suspended as we move to an online format. The opening of online registration will take place in the summer of 2018.

You will note some changes in our Confirmation process. This upcoming year, St. Matthew will transition from reception of the sacrament of Confirmation in the fall of 9th grade to the spring of 8th grade. This means:

- Rising 9th grade students, who successfully meet all the proper criteria will receive the sacrament in November 2018.
- Rising 8th grade students who successfully meet all the proper criteria will receive the sacrament in May 2019.

Therefore, if you are a parent of a **current 7th (Confirmation I), 8th (Confirmation II) or Bible & Church student**, you will need to attend a learning opportunity and information meeting. Please choose ONE of the following meeting times, and only one parent needs to attend (students do not have to be present).

- April 19, 7:00 pm OR April 21, 10:00 am (Main Campus in the church) OR
- April 22, 11:15 am, Waxhaw, in the main worship space

Registration for our Confirmation candidates will be accepted at these meetings. (Confirmation candidates only, all other children must be registered during our open registration period.)

You will also discover a brand new program offering for our older elementary students: Family Discipleship.

While we will continue to offer tradition weekday opportunities, Family Discipleship provides the option of gathering for six parent-child community sessions during the year, combined with at home individual or small group sessions taught by the parents.

Finally, you will note some changes in times and locations. As we continue to grow in numbers, our goal is to make sure we provide you with every opportunity to also grow spiritually and in relationship with Jesus. On Monday and Wednesday we offer our K-6th program on one campus, while our Edge program will be on the other campus. We realize that this may mean you are bringing your children on different nights, but it also allows us to provide you with programs that will accomplish the task that Jesus set before us... *"Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you until the end of all ages."*

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you and to support you in raising your children in the Catholic faith, and forming disciples for Christ!

With Joy,

Diane

Diane Kiradjieff
Director, Office of Faith Formation

2018-2019 Program Information

Preschool (must be 3 by 8/31/2018)

The Sunday Gospel brought to life with music and activities for our three and four year olds. As our facility does not accommodate diaper changes, children must be fully potty-trained to attend Sunday preschool.

Main Campus

- Sunday 9:00 Mass and 10:45 Mass

Kindergarten (must be 5 by 8/31/2018)

Crafts, storytime, music and activities introduce children to our Catholic traditions and the Sunday Liturgy. Sunday and Weekday options available.

Main Campus

- Sunday 9:00 and 10:45 Mass
- Monday 3:30-4:45 or 4:45-6:00 or 6:45-8:00
- Tuesday 4:45-6:00 or 6:45-8:00

Waxhaw Campus

- Wednesday 3:30-4:45 or 5:00-6:15

Sacramental Preparation – First Reconciliation/First Communion

*Two consecutive years of formal religious education (Faith Formation or Catholic School) beginning no younger than 1st grade is required. **Parents of Year 2 and RCIC 2 children will be expected to attend Parent Meetings in the fall of 2018. Information will be provided to you at registration, and through your current Faith Formation class at the end of the 2017-2018 year.***

- Children who have not completed 1st grade, but begin in 2nd grade will be placed in Year 1.
- Older children (3rd-8th Grade) will be placed in our RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) program. For high school students, please see RCIT on the back side of this page.

Year 1 (1st or 2nd grade) & Year 2 (2nd or 3rd grade)

Main Campus

- Monday 3:30-4:45 or 4:45-6:00 or 6:45-8:00
- Tuesday 4:45-6:00 or 6:45-8:00

Waxhaw

- Wednesday 3:30-4:45 or 5:00-6:15 or 6:45-8:00

RCIC 1 & 2 (3rd-8th grade)

Main Campus

- Monday 4:45-6:00
- Tuesday 6:45-8:00

Waxhaw

- Wednesday 6:45-8:00

Older Elementary (3rd-5th)

*The years following First Communion introduce the concepts of discipleship, service and Catholic doctrine that helps the children learn to live out these sacraments. **This year, we will offer two options for this age group, Traditional Weekday Faith Formation and Family Discipleship. Please read descriptions below.***

- Children 3rd-5th grade who have not received the sacraments of First Reconciliation or First Communion will be placed in our RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) program – see Sacramental Preparation.

Traditional Faith Formation

Offered weekday afternoon and evenings. Children take part in presenting a Christmas Cantata (3rd grade), Saint biographies and Stations of the Cross (4th grade) and Sandwich Making Services (5th grade).

Main Campus

- Monday 3:30-4:45 or 4:45-6:00 or 6:45-8:00
- Tuesday 4:45-6:00 or 6:45-8:00

Waxhaw

- Wednesday 3:30-4:45 or 5:00-6:15 or 6:45-8:00

Family Discipleship

New this year, this program combines parent-child mini-retreats with at home individual or small group sessions taught by the parents.

Community Sessions, Main Campus

- Sunday 8:30-10:30 (9/16, 10/28, 12/9, 1/27, 3/10, 5/19)

Early Middle School (6th Grade)

As the transition to middle school begins, the children are immersed in the stories of the Old Testament and Salvation History. Classes combine traditional learning and group discussion, students experience a model Seder (Passover) meal and opportunities for service.

- 6th Grade children who have not received the sacraments of First Reconciliation or First Communion will be placed in our RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) program – see Sacramental Preparation on front page.

Main Campus

- Monday 4:45-6:00 or 6:45-8:00
- Tuesday 4:45-6:00 or 6:45-8:00

Waxhaw

- Wednesday 5:00-6:15 or 6:45-8:00

Middle School (7th & 8th Grade): EDGE

A two-year cyclical program designed to allow the young teen to deepen his or her relationship with Christ, to explore the teachings of the Catholic Church and to prepare them for a life of discipleship following the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation.

- For those 8th grade students who begin without having completed the 7th grade year, one year of Edge will be followed by placement in RCIT for the 9th grade year (see below).
- Middle School students who have not received the sacraments of First Reconciliation or First Communion will be placed in our RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) program – see Sacramental Preparation on front page.

Main Campus

- Sunday 3:30-5:00
- Tuesday 6:45-8:15
- Wednesday 6:45-8:15

Waxhaw

- Monday 5:00-6:30 or 6:45-8:15

High School

Discipleship Groups/Life Teen

Following the Sacrament of Confirmation, teens are initiated into a discipleship group that will encourage, challenge and be a place they can come to grow in their faith.

Main Campus

- Sunday 6:45-8:30

Sacramental Preparation – Confirmation III

For students who have completed 7th and 8th grade Faith Formation or Catholic school. This proximate preparation takes place in the fall and includes a day retreat. Class Dates: 9/9 (Kick-Off), 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14 and 10/28 (Retreat).

Main Campus

- Sunday 3:00-5:00 or 6:30-8:30
- Wednesday 6:00-8:00

Waxhaw

- Tuesday 6:00-8:00

Sacramental Preparation – RCIT (Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens)

For high school students in grades 10-12 seeking Confirmation, or those in grades 9-12 seeking all Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion, Confirmation).

Main Campus

- Sunday 3:30-5:00 or Monday 6:45-8:15